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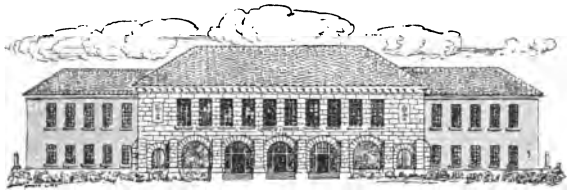

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SELECTED LETTERS

OF

PLINY

WITH NOTES FOR THE USE OF SCHOOLS

BY THE LATE

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Formerly Fellow of Balliol College

AND

EDWARD R. BERNARD, M.A.

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Second Edition

Oxford

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PREFACE.

THE text of this selection of Pliny's letters is that of Keil (Leipsig, 1870). Keil has prefixed to this (his second edition) an admirable account of the materials extant for a critical edition of the works of the author, and an estimate of their comparative authority. He distinguishes three families of extant MSS. The first is represented by the Medicean and Vatican MSS. Of these the Vatican, though perhaps the more ancient, contains only the first four books. The Medicean, containing all the letters except those to and from Trajan, must therefore hold the first place in importance.

The second family is best represented by the Florentine MS., and contains only one hundred letters.

The third family is of a much later date, and consists of a great number of MSS. of the fifteenth century, which are also all imperfect, as they omit the eighth book, and put either the fifth or the ninth in its place. Keil considers the Codex Dresdensis the most valuable of this class of MSS.

The letters to and from Trajan (formerly called the tenth book), stand on a different footing. We have no MS. authority for their text, and depend entirely on printed

editions of the early part of the sixteenth century. About the beginning of that century a very ancient MS. was found in France containing the whole of the works of the younger Pliny, and among them, the letters to and from Trajan, hitherto unknown. Aldus in his complete edition (1508) speaks of his access to this MS. It is no longer extant. If it were, Keil thinks it would probably take precedence of the Medicean (mentioned above) in respect of the nine books of letters, as well as being the sole authority for the tenth. Keil's text of the letters to and from Trajan is therefore founded on the editions of Avantius (ed. pr.) and Aldus.

Nine books of Pliny's letters are mentioned by Sidonius Apollinaris as known to him in the fifth century. After that date they seemed to have shared the general oblivion which befel classical literature, and there is no notice of them till the thirteenth century, when Vincent of Beauvais found a MS. of the 'second family,' and made extracts from it.

The letters were first printed by Valdarferus at Venice in 1471.

All explanatory editions of Pliny's letters are much indebted to that of Catanaeus (Milan, 1506). His notes form the foundation on which subsequent commentaries have been built up. The edition of Cortius and Longolius (Amsterdam, 1734) gives copious illustrations from other authors, and some variety of notes by other critics, but contains little that is original and distinct in the way of explanation of difficulties. Cortius' critical observations on

the text, which occupy much space, have been antiquated by modern investigation. The edition derives value from Masson's learned Life of Pliny, which he allowed to be reprinted with it, and from the very copious indices which are appended to the book.

Gierig's edition (Leipsic, 1800) with Latin notes is a thoroughly good book. A great part of the notes to this selection were prepared without consulting Gierig, but on comparison they will often be found to coincide.

The letters in this selection are not arranged chronologically, but printed in the order in which they stand in the ordinary arrangement. The lines of each letter have been numbered in the text to facilitate reference to the notes. Reference in the notes to a passage contained in this selection is made thus, 'Ep. 2. 1, the first figure referring to the number of the letter in this selection, and the second figure to the line in the text. References to letters not in this selection are preceded by the abbreviation Bk., thus, Bk. 3. 9. In these cases, the first figure gives the number of the Book according to the usual arrangement of the letters, and the second figure the number of the letter. Book 10 is referred to by the abbreviation Trai., thus Trai. 20. Frequent references have been made to Madvig's Latin Grammar (as Madv.), which, with other references, and some of the notes themselves, are addressed rather to the teacher than to the pupil.

LIFE OF PLINY.

CAIUS PLINIUS CAECILIUS SECUNDUS, son of Lucius Caecilius, was born A. D. 62 at Comum or Novum-Comum, on Lake Larius, the modern Lago di Como. His father dying when he was young, he was adopted by his uncle, C. Plinius Secundus, whose name he took, and of whose immense literary industry he gives an interesting account (Ep. 25). He was brought up under the care of Verginius Rufus, whose character he describes (Ep. 16), and was instructed by Quintilian and Nicetes Sacerdos (Ep. 55). At the age of fourteen he relates that he wrote a Greek tragedy: so, at least, it was called (Bk. 7. 4). His letters make frequent mention of the friends of his boyhood and youth, and give a favourable impression of their pursuits and character (Epp. 19, 40, and 41). When a boy of fifteen he was chosen patron by the inhabitants of Tifernum, near which town he had estates in Tuscany. Two years afterwards he was present with his mother at Misenum when the eruption of Vesuvius took place, in which his uncle perished, and of which he gives an account in two celebrated letters (Epp. 59 and 61). He was eighteen years of age when he began to speak in the forum (Bk. 8. 5), and probably within two or three years from this time went to Syria as military tribune (Epp. 6 and 28). Even during this service he found time for his studies, and took advantage of intercourse with the philosophers Euphrates, Musonius, and Artemidorus (Ep. 6).

Returning to Italy, probably within three or four years at most, he devoted himself to public offices and the employments of an advocate; and his letters contain many allusions to the causes in which he was engaged, and to his speeches, which he seems to have prepared with great care (Epp. 12 and 69; Bk. 6. 29). He was quaestor to Domitian, and tribune, and during his tenure of the latter magistracy thought it decorous to abstain from pleading, endeavouring to persuade himself that the office was still one of real importance (Ep. 15). He was also praetor in the same reign, and from inscriptions published by Gruter and quoted in Masson's Life of Pliny, seems to have held other offices. The death of Domitian, who had lately put to death many of the best and noblest men in Rome, and banished the philosophers, saved Pliny. An information against him signed by Carus was afterwards found in the tyrant's desk (Ep. 68). He signalized himself under Nerva in prosecuting the informers who had become powerful in the reigns of Nero and Domitian, and by whose accusations some of his friends had suffered (Epp. 77 and 28). He was a personal friend of the emperor Trajan, whom he congratulates on his accession, Jan. A. D. 98 (Ep. 85), and pronounced upon him his Panegyric, when consul A. D. 100. During his absence in the Dacian war some appeals had been made to the emperor, to hear which he summoned Pliny to Centumcellae or Civita Vecchia, and soon afterwards sent him into Asia as Propraetor of the province of Pontus. He remained in this office about a year and a half, during which he managed the affairs of the province with uprightness and activity, as his letters to Trajan amply show. On his return he probably spent the rest of his life in literary pursuits, political duties, and in managing his estates, which were of great value;

but little is known of his later years, and the date of his death is uncertain. Although twice or perhaps thrice married, he left no children.

The character of Pliny, as it appears in his letters, is that of an amiable, accomplished, and upright man, exact in public and private duties, a kind husband, friend and master, patriotic, benevolent, and just. Much tenderness of heart is shown in his letters to his wife (Epp. 54 and 56), and in others to his friends expressing sympathy with their griefs, offering help and counsel (as Epp. 49 and 51; Bk. 8. 5); many prove his public spirit, generosity, and considerate kindness towards his townsmen, tenants, and even his slaves (Epp. 26, 70, 73). And not only is his own character a pleasant one to contemplate, but we derive from his letters an agreeable impression of that of his friends and contemporaries, showing that even in that evil age there is a brighter side to the dark picture of Roman life and manners drawn by Tacitus and Juvenal. That even then there was much virtue and happiness and refinement of feeling it is impossible to doubt, after reading Pliny. Another source of value in his letters is the variety of topics which they touch upon. His account of his uncle's studies and mode of life has already been referred to; his description of Spurinna (Ep. 24), of Titus Aristo (Ep. 14), and of his own way of spending his day (Ep. 82), his letters on the management of his estates (Epp. 33 and 76), those relating to his speeches and senatorial duties (Bk. 3. 9; Ep. 62), his confession of his harmless vanity in being mistaken for Tacitus (Ep. 80), his strong desire for posthumous fame (Ep. 74), are all, in various ways, interesting or amusing. Those written to Trajan, from Bithynia, with the emperor's rescripts, give a vivid conception of the conscientious labour spent by the master of the world on the

details of government, as well as of his strong sense and judgment. Dark traits, no doubt, there are even in this favourable picture of Roman life, but it is, on the whole, a cheering one. There are many characters in antiquity of more massive greatness than that of Pliny, both intellectual and moral, but there is none more engaging both in the grace and accomplishments of his mind, and the kindliness and purity of his heart.—See Masson's Life of Pliny in Cortius's Edition of the Letters; also Merivale's Rome, c. 64, and the Life of Pliny in Smith's Biographical Dictionary.

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SELECTION FROM THE LETTERS

OF

C. PLINIUS CAECILIUS SECUNDUS.

1. (BOOK I. 1.)

Pliny sends his letters to Septicius, who had encouraged him to collect them.

C. PLINIUS SEPTICIO SUO S.

FREQUENTER hortatus es ut epistulas, siquas paulo curatius scripsissem, colligerem publicaremque. Collegi non servato temporis ordine (neque enim historiam conponebam), sed ut quaeque in manus venerat. Superest ut nec te consilii nec me paeniteat obsequii. Ita enim fiet ut eas quae adhuc neglectae iacent requiram, et siquas addidero, non supprimam. Vale.

2. (BOOK I. 2.)

Pliny sends a speech to his friend Arrianus for correction by him.

C. PLINIUS ARRIANO SUO S.

Quia tardiorem adventum tuum prospicio, librum quem prioribus epistulis promiseram exhibeo. Hunc rogo ex

consuetudine tua et legas et emendes, eo magis, quod nihil umquam peraeque eodem ζήλῳ scripsisse videor. Temptavi enim imitari Demosthenen semper tuum, Calvum nuper meum, dumtaxat figuris orationis: nam vim tantorum virorum 'pauci quos aequus amavit' adsequi possunt. Nec materia ipsa huic, vereor ne inprobe dicam, aemulationi repugnavit: erat enim prope tota in contentione dicendi. Quod me longae desidiae indormientem excitavit, si modo is sum ego qui excitari possim. Non tamen omnino Marci nostri ληκύθους fugimus, quotiens paulum itinere decedere non intempestivis amoenitatibus admonebamur: acres enim esse, non tristes volebamus. Nec est quod putes me sub hac exceptione veniam postulare. Nam quo magis intendam limam tuam, confitebor et ipsum me et contubernales ab editione non abhorrere, si modo tu fortasse errori nostro album calculum adieceris. Est enim plane aliquid edendum, atque utinam hoc potissimum quod paratum est! (audis desidiae votum?) edendum autem ex pluribus causis, maxime quod libelli quos emisimus dicuntur in manibus esse, quamvis iam gratiam novitatis exuerint; nisi tamen auribus nostris bibliopolae blandiuntur. Sed sane blandiantur, dum per hoc mendacium nobis studia nostra commendent. Vale.

3. (BOOK I. 3.)

Pliny counsels Caninius to employ his delightful retirement at Comum in authorship.

C. PLINIUS CANINIO RUFO SUO S.

Quid agit Comum, tuae meaeque deliciae? quid suburbanum amoenissimum? quid illa porticus verna semper? quid platanon opacissimus? quid euripus viridis et gemmeus? quid subiectus et serviens lacus? quid illa mollis et tamen solida gestatio? quid balineum illud, quod plurimus sol

implet et circumit? quid triclinia illa popularia, illa paucorum? quid cubicula diurna nocturna? possident te et per vices partiuntur? an, ut solebas, intentione rei familiaris obeundae crebris excursionibus avocaris? Si te possident, felix beatusque es; si minus, unus ex multis. Quin tu (tempus est enim) humiles et sordidas curas aliis mandas et ipse te in alto isto pinguique secessu studiis adseris? hoc sit negotium tuum, hoc otium, hic labor, haec quies: in his vigilia, in his etiam somnus reponatur. Effinge aliquid et exclude, quod sit perpetuo tuum. Nam reliqua rerum tuarum post te alium atque alium dominum sortientur, hoc numquam tuum desinet esse, si semel coeperit. Scio quem animum, quod horter ingenium. Tu modo enitere ut tibi ipse sis tanti, quanti videberis aliis, si tibi fueris. Vale.

4. (BOOK I. 6.)

The sportsman need not leave his studies at home.

C. PLINIUS CORNELIO TACITO SUO S.

Ridebis, et licet rideas. Ego ille quem nosti apros tres et quidem pulcherrimos cepi. Ipse? inquis. Ipse; non tamen ut omnino ab inertia mea et quiete discederem. Ad retia sedebam: erat in proximo non venabulum aut lancea, sed stilus et pugillares: meditabar aliquid enotabamque, ut, si manus vacuas, plenas tamen ceras reportarem. Non est quod contemnas hoc studendi genus: mirum est ut animus agitatione motuque corporis excitetur. Iam undique silvae et solitudo ipsumque illud silentium, quod venationi datur, magna cogitationis incitamenta sunt. Proinde cum venabere, licebit auctore me ut panarium et lagunculam sic etiam pugillares feras: experieris non Dianam magis montibus quam Minervam inerrare. Vale.

5. (BOOK I. 9.)

The industrious leisure of the country is delightful, compared with the busy idleness of the town.

C. PLINIUS MINUCIO FUNDANO SUO S.

Mirum est quam singulis diebus in urbe ratio aut constet aut constare videatur, pluribus iunctisque non constet. Nam siquem interroges 'hodie quid egisti?' respondeat 'officio togae virilis interfui, sponsalia aut nuptias frequentavi, ille me ad signandum testamentum, ille in advocationem, ille in consilium rogavit.' Haec quo die feceris necessaria, eadem, si cotidie fecisse te reputes, inania videntur, multo magis, cum secesseris. Tunc enim subit recordatio 'quot dies quam frigidis rebus absumpsi!' quod evenit mihi, postquam in Laurentino meo aut lego aliquid aut scribo aut etiam corpori vaco, cuius fulturis animus sustinetur. Nihil audio quod audisse, nihil dico quod dixisse paeniteat: nemo apud me quemquam sinistris sermonibus carpit, neminem ipse reprehendo, nisi tamen me, cum parum commode scribo; nulla spe, nullo timore sollicitor, nullis rumoribus inquietor: mecum tantum et cum libellis loquor. O rectam sinceramque vitam, O dulce otium honestumque ac paene omni negotio pulchrius! O mare, O litus, verum secretumque μουσεῖον, quam multa invenitis, quam multa dictatis! Proinde tu quoque strepitum istum inanemque discursum et multum ineptos labores, ut primum fuerit occasio, relinque teque studiis vel otio trade. Satius est enim, ut Atilius noster eruditissime simul et facetissime dixit, otiosum esse quam nihil agere. Vale.

6. (BOOK I. 10.)

Pliny describes the pleasure and profit which he derives from the teaching and example of the excellent Euphrates.

C. PLINIUS ATTIO CLEMENTI SUO S.

Siquando urbs nostra liberalibus studiis floruit, nunc

maxime floret. Multa claraque exempla sunt; sufficeret unum, Euphrates philosophus. Hunc ego in Syria, cum adulescentulus militarem, penitus et domi inspexi amarique ab eo laboravi, etsi non erat laborandum. Est enim obvius et expositus plenusque humanitate, quam praecipit. Atque utinam sic ipse quam spem tunc ille de me concepit impleverim, ut ille multum virtutibus suis addidit! aut ego nunc illas magis miror, quia magis intellego. Quamquam ne nunc quidem satis intellego. Ut enim de pictore scalptore fictore nisi artifex iudicare, ita nisi sapiens non potest perspicere sapientem. Quantum tamen mihi cernere datur, multa in Euphrate sic eminent et elucent, ut mediocriter quoque doctos advertant et adficiant. Disputat subtiliter graviter ornate, frequenter etiam Platonicam illam sublimitatem et latitudinem effingit. Sermo est copiosus et varius, dulcis in primis, et qui repugnantes quoque ducat inpellat. Ad hoc proceritas corporis, decora facies, demissus capillus, ingens et cana barba; quae licet fortuita et inania putentur, illi tamen plurimum venerationis adquirunt. Nullus horror in cultu, nulla tristitia, multum severitatis: reverearis occursum, non reformides. Vitae sanctitas summa, comitas par: insectatur vitia, non homines, nec castigat errantes, sed emendat. Sequaris monentem attentus et pendens et persuaderi tibi, etiam cum persuaserit, cupias. Iam vero liberi tres, duo mares, quos diligentissime instituit. Socer Pompeius Iulianus, cum cetera vita tum vel hoc uno magnus et clarus, quod ipse provinciae princeps inter altissimas condiciones generum non honoribus principem, sed sapientia elegit. Quamquam quid ego plura de viro, quo mihi frui non licet? an ut magis angar, quod non licet? Nam distringor officio ut maximo sic molestissimo: sedeo pro tribunali, subnoto libellos, conficio tabulas, scribo plurimas, sed inlitteratissimas litteras. Soleo non numquam (nam id ipsum quando contingit!) de his occupationibus apud Euphraten queri. Ille me consolatur, adfirmat etiam

esse hanc philosophiae et quidem pulcherrimam partem, agere negotium publicum, cognoscere, iudicare, promere et exercere iustitiam, quaeque ipsi doceant in usu habere. Mihi tamen hoc unum non persuadet, satius esse ista facere quam cum illo dies totos audiendo discendoque consumere. Quo magis te, cui vacat, hortor, cum in urbem proxime veneris (venias autem ob hoc maturius), illi te expoliendum limandumque permittas. Neque enim ego, ut multi, invideo aliis bono quo ipse careo, sed contra sensum quendam voluptatemque percipio, si ea quae mihi denegantur amicis video superesse. Vale.

7. (BOOK I. 12.)

Pliny laments the loss and admires the fortitude of Corellius Rufus, who had ended his sufferings by abstinence from food.

C. PLINIUS CALESTRIO TIRONI SUO S.

Iacturam gravissimam feci, si iactura dicenda est tanti viri amissio: decessit Corellius Rufus, et quidem sponte, quod dolorem meum exulcerat. Est enim luctuosissimum genus mortis quae non ex natura nec fatalis videtur. Nam utcumque in illis qui morbo finiuntur magnum ex ipsa necessitate solacium est, in iis vero quos arcessita mors aufert hic insanabilis dolor est, quod creduntur potuisse diu vivere. Corellium quidem summa ratio, quae sapientibus pro necessitate est, ad hoc consilium compulit, quamquam plurimas vivendi causas habentem, optimam conscientiam, optimam famam, maximam auctoritatem, praeterea filiam uxorem nepotem sorores, interque tot pignora veros amicos. Sed tam longa, tam iniqua valetudine conflictabatur, ut haec tanta pretia vivendi mortis rationibus vincerentur. Tertio et tricensimo anno, ut ipsum audiebam, pedum dolore correptus est. Patrius hic illi: nam plerumque morbi quoque per successiones quasdam

ut alia, traduntur. Hunc abstinentia sanctitate, quoad viridis aetas, vicit et fregit; novissime cum senectute ingravescentem viribus animi sustinebat, cum quidem incredibiles cruciatus et indignissima tormenta pateretur. Iam enim dolor non pedibus solis, ut prius, insidebat, sed omnia membra pervagabatur. Veni ad eum Domitiani temporibus in suburbano iacentem. Servi e cubiculo recesserunt: habebat hoc moris, quotiens intrasset fidelior amicus; quin etiam uxor, quamquam omnis secreti capacissima, digrediebatur. Circumtulit oculos et 'cur' inquit 'me putas hos tantos dolores tam diu sustinere? ut scilicet isti latroni vel uno die supersim.' Dedisses huic animo par corpus, fecisset quod optabat. Adfuit tamen deus voto, cuius ille compos, ut iam securus liberque moriturus, multa illa vitae, sed minora retinacula abrupit. Increverat valetudo, quam temperantia mitigare temptavit, perseverantem constantia fugit. Iam dies alter tertius quartus: abstinebat cibo. Misit ad me uxor eius Hispulla communem amicum C. Geminium cum tristissimo nuntio, destinasse Corellium mori nec aut suis aut filiae precibus flecti, solum superesse me, a quo revocari posset ad vitam. Cucurri: perveneram in proximum, cum mihi ab eadem Hispulla Iulius Atticus nuntiat nihil iam ne me quidem inpetraturum, tam obstinate magis ac magis induruisse. Dixerat sane medico admoventi cibum κέκρικα, quae vox quantum admirationis in animo meo tantum desiderii reliquit. Cogito quo amico, quo viro caream. Implevit quidem annum septimum et sexagensimum, quae aetas etiam robustissimis satis longa est: scio. Evasit perpetuam valetudinem: scio. Decessit superstitibus suis, florente re publica, quae illi omnibus suis carior erat: et hoc scio. Ego tamen tamquam et iuvenis et firmissimi mortem doleo, doleo autem (licet me inbecillum putes) meo nomine. Amisi enim, amisi vitae meae testem rectorem magistrum: in summa dicam quod recenti dolore contubernali meo

Calvisio dixi, 'vereor ne neglegentius vivam.' Proinde adhibe solacia mihi, non haec 'senex erat, infirmus erat' (haec enim novi), sed nova aliqua, sed magna, quae audierim numquam, legerim numquam. Nam quae audivi, quae legi, sponte succurrunt, sed tanto dolore superantur. Vale.

8. (BOOK I. 13.)

Pliny complains that the activity of poetical literature is ill requited by the general unwillingness to attend the public recitations.

C. PLINIUS SOSIO SENECIONI SUO S.

Magnum proventum poetarum annus hic attulit: toto mense Aprili nullus fere dies, quo non recitaret aliquis. Iuvat me quod vigent studia, proferunt se ingenia hominum et ostentant, tametsi ad audiendum pigre coitur. Plerique in stationibus sedent tempusque audiendi fabulis conterunt ac subinde sibi nuntiari iubent, an iam recitator intraverit, an dixerit praefationem, an ex magna parte evolverit librum: tunc demum ac tunc quoque lente cunctanterque veniunt: nec tamen permanent, sed ante finem recedunt, alii dissimulanter et furtim, alii simpliciter et libere. At hercule memoria parentum Claudium Caesarem ferunt, cum in palatio spatiaretur audissetque clamorem, causam requisisse, cumque dictum esset recitare Nonianum, subitum recitanti inopinatumque venisse. Nunc otiosissimus quisque multo ante rogatus et identidem admonitus aut non venit aut, si venit, queritur se diem, quia non perdiderit, perdidisse. Sed tanto magis laudandi probandique sunt quos a scribendi recitandique studio haec auditorum vel desidia vel superbia non retardat. Equidem prope nemini defui. Erant sane plerique amici: neque enim est fere quisquam qui studia, ut non simul et nos amet. His ex causis longius, quam destinaveram, tempus in urbe consumpsi. Possum iam repetere secessum et scribere aliquid quod non recitem, ne

videar, quorum recitationibus adfui, non auditor fuisse, sed creditor. Nam ut in ceteris rebus ita in audiendi officio perit gratia, si reposcatur. Vale.

9. (BOOK I. 14.)

Pliny having been asked by Mauricus to look out for a husband for his niece, the orphan daughter of Rusticus, can confidently recommend Minicius Acilianus on the ground of his education, his connections, his personal appearance, and his circumstances.

C. PLINIUS IUNIO MAURICO SUO S.

Petis ut fratris tui filiae prospiciam maritum; quod merito mihi potissimum iniungis. Scis enim quanto opere summum illum virum suspexerim dilexerimque, quibus ille adulescentiam meam exhortationibus foverit, quibus etiam laudibus ut laudandus viderer effecerit. Nihil est quod a te mandari mihi aut maius aut gratius, nihil quod honestius a me suscipi possit, quam ut eligam iuvenem, ex quo nasci nepotes Aruleno Rustico deceat. Qui quidem diu quaerendus fuisset, nisi paratus et quasi provisus esset Minicius Acilianus, qui me ut iuvenis iuvenem (est enim minor pauculis annis) familiarissime diligit, reveretur ut senem. Nam ita formari a me et institui cupit, ut ego a vobis solebam. Patria est ei Brixia ex illa nostra Italia, quae multum adhuc verecundiae, frugalitatis atque etiam rusticitatis antiquae retinet ac servat. Pater Minicius Macrinus, equestris ordinis princeps, quia nihil altius voluit: adlectus enim a divo Vespasiano inter praetorios honestam quietem huic nostrae ambitioni dicam an dignitati constantissime praetulit. Habet aviam maternam Serranam Proculam e municipio Patavino. Nosti loci mores: Serrana tamen Patavinis quoque severitatis exemplum est. Contigit et avunculus ei P. Acilius, gravitate prudentia fide prope singulari. In summa nihil erit in domo tota, quod non

tibi tamquam in tua placeat. Aciliano vero ipsi plurimum vigoris industriae, quamquam in maxima verecundia. Quaesturam tribunatum praeturam honestissime percucurrit ac iam pro se tibi necessitatem ambiendi remisit. Est illi facies liberalis multo sanguine, multo rubore suffusa, est ingenua totius corporis pulchritudo et quidam senatorius decor. Quae ego nequaquam arbitror neglegenda: debet enim hoc castitati puellarum quasi praemium dari. Nescio an adiciam esse patri eius amplas facultates. Nam cum imaginor vos, quibus quaerimus generum, silendum de facultatibus puto: cum publicos mores atque etiam leges civitatis intueor, quae vel in primis census hominum spectandos arbitrantur, ne id quidem praetereundum videtur. Et sane de posteris et his pluribus cogitanti hic quoque in condicionibus deligendis ponendus est calculus. Tu fortasse me putes indulsisse amori meo supraque ista, quam res patitur, sustulisse. At ego fide mea spondeo futurum ut omnia longe ampliora, quam a me praedicantur, invenias. Diligo quidem adulescentem ardentissime, sicut meretur; sed hoc ipsum amantis est, non onerare eum laudibus. Vale.

10. (BOOK I. 15.)

Pliny rallies Septicius on having broken his engagement to dine with him, and tells him it was his own loss.

C. PLINIUS SEPTICIO CLARO SUO S.

Heus tu promittis ad cenam nec venis! Dicitur ius: ad assem inpendium reddes, nec id modicum. Paratae erant lactucae singulae, cochleae ternae, ova bina, alica cum mulso et nive (nam hanc quoque computabis, immo hanc in primis, quae periit in ferculo), olivae, betacei, cucurbitae, bulbi, alia mille non minus lauta. Audisses comoedos vel

lectorem vel lyristen vel, quae mea liberalitas, omnes. At tu apud nescio quem ostrea, vulvas, echinos, Gaditanas maluisti. Dabis poenas, non dico quas. Dure fecisti: invidisti, nescio an tibi, certe mihi, sed tamen et tibi. Quantum nos lusissemus, risissemus, studuissemus! potes apparatius cenare apud multos, nusquam hilarius simplicius incautius. In summa experire, et nisi postea te aliis potius excusaveris, mihi semper excusa. Vale.

11. (BOOK 1. 16.)

Pliny wishes to make his friend Erucius aware of the varied literary gifts of Saturninus.

C. PLINIUS ERUCIO SUO S.

Amabam Pompeium Saturninum, hunc dico nostrum, laudabamque eius ingenium, etiam antequam scirem quam varium, quam flexibile, quam multiplex esset; nunc vero totum me tenet, habet, possidet. Audivi causas agentem acriter et ardenter nec minus polite et ornate, sive meditata sive subita proferret. Adsunt aptae crebraeque sententiae, gravis et decora constructio, sonantia verba et antiqua. Omnia haec mire placent, cum impetu quodam et flumine pervehuntur, placent, si retractentur. Senties quod ego, cum orationes eius in manus sumpseris, quas facile cuilibet veterum, quorum est aemulus, comparabis. Idem tamen in historia magis satisfaciet vel brevitate vel luce vel suavitate vel splendore etiam et sublimitate narrandi. Nam in contionibus idem qui in orationibus est, pressior tamen et circumscriptior et adductior. Praeterea facit versus, quales Catullus aut Calvus, re vera quales Catullus aut Calvus. Quantum illis leporis, dulcedinis, amaritudinis, amoris! inserit sane, sed data opera, mollibus levibusque duriusculos quosdam, et hoc quasi Catullus aut Calvus. Legit mihi nuper epistulas; uxoris esse dicebat: Plautum vel Terentium

metro solutum legi credidi. Quae sive uxoris sunt, ut adfirmat, sive ipsius, ut negat, pari gloria dignus qui aut illa componat aut uxorem, quam virginem accepit, tam doctam politamque reddiderit. Est ergo mecum per diem totum: eundem antequam scribam, eundem cum scripsi, eundem etiam cum remittor, non tamquam eundem lego. Quod te quoque ut facias et hortor et moneo. Neque enim debet operibus eius obesse quod vivit. An si inter eos quos numquam vidimus floruisset, non solum libros eius verum etiam imagines conquireremus; eiusdem nunc honor praesentis et gratia quasi satietate languescit? At hoc pravum malignumque est, non admirari hominem admiratione dignissimum, quia videre, adloqui, audire, complecti, nec laudare tantum verum etiam amare contigit. Vale.

12. (BOOK I. 18.)

Pliny endeavours to reassure Suetonius' anxiety about his dream, by relating an experience of his own; but if Suetonius still desires a postponement of the case, he will contrive to obtain it for him.

C. PLINIUS SUETONIO TRANQUILLO SUO S.

Scribis te perterritum somnio vereri ne quid adversi in actione patiaris, rogas ut dilationem petam et pauculos dies, certe proximum, excusem. Difficile est, sed experiar: *καὶ γάρ τ' ὄναρ ἐκ Διός ἐστιν.* Refert tamen, eventura soleas an contraria somniare. Mihi reputanti somnium meum, istud quod times tu egregiam actionem portendere videtur. Susceperam causam Iuni Pastoris, cum mihi quiescenti visa est socrus mea advoluta genibus ne agerem obsecrare. Et eram acturus adulescentulus adhuc, eram in quadruplici iudicio, eram contra potentissimos civitatis atque etiam Caesaris amicos; quae singula excutere mentem mihi post tam triste somnium poterant. Egi tamen λογισάμενος illud

εἷς οἰωνὸς ἄριστος, ἀμύνεσθαι περὶ πάτρης.

nam mihi patria, et siquid carius patria, fides videbatur. Prospere cessit, atque adeo illa actio mihi aures hominum, illa ianuam famae patefecit. Proinde dispice, an tu quoque sub hoc exemplo somnium istud in bonum vertas: aut si tutius putas illud cautissimi cuiusque praeceptum, 'quod dubites ne feceris', id ipsum rescribe. Ego aliquam stropham inveniam agamque causam tuam, ut istam agere tu, cum voles, possis. Est enim sane alia ratio tua, alia mea fuit. Nam iudicium centumvirale differri nullo modo, istud aegre quidem, sed tamen potest. Vale.

13. (BOOK I. 20.)

Pliny asks the opinion of Tacitus on a controversy in which he had been engaged with a friend of his, namely, whether a long speech or a short one is the more effective in judicial pleading.

C. PLINIUS CORNELIO TACITO SUO S.

Frequens mihi disputatio est cum quodam docto homine et perito, cui nihil aeque in causis agendis ut brevitas placet. Quam ego custodiendam esse confiteor, si causa permittat: alioqui praevaricatio est transire dicenda, praevaricatio etiam cursim et breviter attingere quae sunt inculcanda, infigenda, repetenda. Nam plerisque longiore tractatu vis quaedam et pondus accedit, utque corpori ferrum, sic oratio animo non ictu magis quam mora imprimitur. Hic ille mecum auctoritatibus agit ac mihi ex graecis orationes Lysiae ostentat, ex nostris Gracchorum Catonisque, quorum sane plurimae sunt circumcisae et breves: ego Lysiae Demosthenen, Aeschinen, Hyperiden multosque praeterea, Gracchis et Catoni Pollionem, Caesarem, Caelium, in primis M. Tullium oppono, cuius oratio optima fertur esse quae maxima. Et hercule ut aliae bonae res ita bonus liber melior est quisque, quo maior. Vides ut statuas, signa,

picturas, hominum denique multorumque animalium formas, arborum etiam, si modo sint decorae, nihil magis quam amplitudo commendet. Idem orationibus evenit; quin etiam voluminibus ipsis auctoritatem quandam et pulchritudinem adicit magnitudo. Haec ille multaque alia, quae a me in eandem sententiam solent dici, ut est in disputando inconprehensibilis et lubricus, ita eludit, ut contendat hos ipsos, quorum orationibus nitar, pauciora dixisse, quam ediderint. Ego contra puto: testes sunt multae multorum orationes et Ciceronis pro Murena, pro Vareno, in quibus brevis et nuda quasi subscriptio quorundam criminum solis titulis indicatur: ex his apparet illum permulta dixisse, cum ederet, omisisse. Idem pro Cluentio ait se totam causam vetere instituto solum perorasse et pro C. Cornelio quadriduo egisse; ne dubitare possimus quae per plures dies, ut necesse erat, latius dixerit postea recisa ac repurgata in unum librum, grandem quidem, unum tamen, coartasse. At aliud est actio bona, aliud oratio. Scio non nullis ita videri. Sed ego, forsitan fallar, persuasum habeo posse fieri ut sit actio bona quae non sit bona oratio, non posse non bonam actionem esse quae sit bona oratio. Est enim oratio actionis exemplar et quasi ἀρχέτυπον. Ideo in optima quaque mille figuras extemporales invenimus, in iis etiam quas tantum editas scimus, ut in Verrem, 'artificem quem? quemnam? recte admones: Polyclitum esse dicebant.' Sequitur ergo ut actio sit absolutissima quae maxime orationis similitudinem expresserit, si modo iustum et debitum tempus accipiat: quod si negetur, nulla oratoris, maxima iudicis culpa est. Adsunt huic opinioni meae leges, quae longissima tempora largiuntur nec brevitatem dicentibus, sed copiam, hoc est diligentiam, suadent; quam praestare nisi in angustissimis causis non potest brevitas. Adiciam quod me docuit usus, magister egregius. Frequenter egi, frequenter iudi-

cavi, frequenter in consilio fui: aliud alios movet, ac plerumque parvae res maximas trahunt. Varia sunt hominum iudicia, variae voluntates: inde qui eandem causam simul audierunt, saepe diversum, interdum idem, sed ex diversis animi motibus sentiunt. Praeterea suae quisque inventioni favet et quasi fortissimum amplectitur, cum ab alio dictum est quod ipse praevidit. Omnibus ergo dandum est aliquid quod teneant, quod agnoscant. Dixit aliquando mihi Regulus, cum simul adessemus, 'tu omnia quae sunt in causa putas exequenda, ego iugulum statim video, hunc premo:' premit sane quod elegit, sed in eligendo frequenter errat. Respondi posse fieri ut genu esset aut talus, ubi ille iugulum putaret: 'at ego' inquam, 'qui iugulum perspicere non possum, omnia pertempto, omnia experior, *πάντα* denique *λίθον κινῶ*, utque in cultura agri non vineas tantum verum etiam arbusta, nec arbusta tantum verum etiam campos curo et exerceo, utque in ipsis campis non far aut siliginem solam sed hordeum, fabam ceteraque legumina sero, sic in actione plura quasi semina latius spargo, ut quae provenerint colligam. Neque enim minus inperspicua, incerta, fallacia sunt iudicum ingenia quam tempestatum terrarumque. Nec me praeterit summum oratorem Periclen sic a comico Eupolide laudari,

πρὸς δέ γ' αὐτοῦ τῷ τάχει
πειθώ τις ἐπεκάθητο τοῖσι χείλεσιν.
οὕτως ἐκήλει καὶ μόνος τῶν ῥητόρων
τὸ κέντρον ἐγκατέλειπε τοῖς ἀκροωμένοις.

verum huic ipsi Pericli nec illa *πειθώ* nec illud *ἐκήλει* brevitate vel velocitate vel utraque (differunt enim) sine facultate summa contigisset. Nam delectare persuadere copiam dicendi spatiumque desiderat; relinquere vero aculeum in audientium animis is demum potest, qui non pungit, sed infigit. Adde quae de eodem Pericle comicus alter,

ἤστραπτ', ἐβρόντα, συνεκύκα τὴν Ἑλλάδα.

Non enim amputata oratio et abscisa, sed lata et magnifica et excelsa tonat, fulgurat, omnia denique perturbat ac miscet. Optimus tamen modus est. Quis negat? sed non minus non servat modum qui infra rem quam qui supra, qui adstrictius quam qui effusius dicit. Itaque audis frequenter ut illud 'immodice et redundanter,' ita hoc 'ieiune et infirme.' Alius excessisse materiam, alius dicitur non inplesse. Aeque uterque, sed ille inbecillitate, hic viribus peccat; quod certe, etsi non limatioris, maioris tamen ingenii vitium est. Nec vero, cum haec dico, illum Homericum ἀμετροεπῆ probo, sed hunc,

καὶ ἔπεα νιφάδεσσιν ἐοικότα χειμερίῃσιν

non quia non et ille mihi validissime placeat,

παῦρα μέν, ἀλλὰ μάλα λιγέως·

si tamen detur electio, illam orationem similem nivibus hibernis, id est crebram et adsiduam et largam, postremo divinam et caelestem, volo. At est gratior multis actio brevis. Est, sed inertibus, quorum delicias desidiamque quasi iudicium respicere ridiculum est. Nam si hos in consilio habeas, non solum satius est breviter dicere, sed omnino non dicere. Haec est adhuc sententia mea, quam mutabo, si dissenseris tu; sed plane cur dissentias explices rogo. Quamvis enim cedere auctoritati debeam tuae, rectius tamen arbitror in tanta re ratione quam auctoritate superari. Proinde si non errare videor, id ipsum quam voles brevi epistula, sed tamen scribe (confirmabis enim iudicium meum); si errare, longissimam para. Num corrupi te, qui tibi, si mihi accederes, brevis epistulae necessitatem, si dissentires, longissimae inposui? Vale.

14. (BOOK I. 22.)

A delightful picture of the virtues of T. Aristo, whose serious illness detains Pliny in Rome.

C. PLINIUS CATILIO SEVERO SUO S.

Diu iam in urbe haereo, et quidem attonitus. Perturbat me longa et pertinax valetudo Titi Aristonis, quem singulariter et miror et diligo. Nihil est enim illo gravius, sanctius, doctius, ut mihi non unus homo, sed litterae ipsae omnesque bonae artes in uno homine summum periculum adire videantur. Quam peritus ille et privati iuris et publici! quantum rerum, quantum exemplorum, quantum antiquitatis tenet! Nihil est quod discere velis, quod ille docere non possit. Mihi certe, quotiens aliquid abditum quaero, ille thesaurus est. Iam quanta sermonibus eius fides, quanta auctoritas, quam pressa et decora cunctatio! quid est quod non statim sciat? et tamen plerumque haesitat, dubitat diversitate rationum, quas acri magnoque iudicio ab origine causisque primis repetit, discernit, expendit. Ad hoc quam parcus in victu, quam modicus in cultu! Soleo ipsum cubiculum eius ipsumque lectum ut imaginem quandam priscae frugalitatis aspicere. Ornat haec magnitudo animi, quae nihil ad ostentationem, omnia ad conscientiam refert, recteque facti non ex populi sermone mercedem, sed ex facto petit. In summa non facile quemquam ex istis qui sapientiae studium habitu corporis praeferunt huic viro comparabis. Non quidem gymnasia sectatur aut porticus nec disputationibus longis aliorum otium suumque delectat, sed in toga negotiisque versatur, multos advocatione, plures consilio iuvat. Nemini tamen istorum castitate, pietate, iustitia, fortitudine etiam primo loco cesserit. Mirareris, si interesses, quae patientia hanc ipsam valetudinem toleret, ut dolori resistat, ut sitim differat, ut incredibilem febrium ardorem inmotus opertusque

transmittat. Nuper me paucosque mecum, quos maxime diligit, advocavit rogavitque ut medicos consuleremus de summa valetudinis, ut, si esset insuperabilis, sponte exiret e vita, si tantum difficilis et longa, resisteret maneretque: dandum enim precibus uxoris, dandum filiae lacrimis, dandum etiam nobis amicis ne spes nostras, si modo non essent inanes, voluntaria morte desereret. Id ego arduum in primis et praecipua laude dignum puto. Nam impetu quodam et instinctu procurrere ad mortem commune cum multis, deliberare vero et causas eius expendere, utque suaserit ratio, vitae mortisque consilium vel suscipere vel ponere ingentis est animi. Et medici quidem secunda nobis pollicentur: superest ut promissis deus adnuat tandemque me hac sollicitudine exsolvat; qua liberatus Laurentinum meum, hoc est libellos et pugillares studiosumque otium, repetam. Nunc enim nihil legere, nihil scribere aut adsidenti vacat aut anxio libet. Habes quid timeam, quid optem, quid etiam in posterum destinem: tu quid egeris, quid agas, quid velis agere, invicem nobis, sed laetioribus epistulis scribe. Erit confusioni meae non mediocre solacium, si tu nihil quereris. Vale.

15. (BOOK I. 23.)

Pliny tells Falco that he did not think it suitable in his own case to plead at the bar, when he was tribune; but Falco may reasonably entertain a different view of the importance and obligations of the office.

C. PLINIUS POMPEIO FALCONI SUO S.

Consulis, an existimem te in tribunatu causas agere debere. Plurimum refert, quid esse tribunatum putes, inanem umbram et sine honore nomen, an potestatem sacrosanctam et quam in ordinem cogi ut a nullo ita ne a se quidem deceat. Ipse cum tribunus essem, erraverim fortasse, qui me aliquid putavi, sed tamquam essem, abstinui causis agendis: primum quod deforme arbitrabar, cui ad-

surgere, cui loco cedere omnes oporteret, hunc omnibus sedentibus stare; et qui iubere posset tacere quemcumque, huic silentium clepsydra indici; et quem interfari nefas esset, hunc etiam convicia audire, et si inulta pateretur, inertem, si ulcisceretur, insolentem videri. Erat hic quoque aestus ante oculos, si forte me appellasset vel ille cui adessem vel ille quem contra, intercederem et auxilium ferrem, an quiescerem sileremque et quasi eiurato magistratu privatum ipse me facerem. His rationibus motus malui me tribunum omnibus exhibere, quam paucis advocatum. Sed tu, iterum dicam, plurimum interest, quid esse tribunatum putes, quam personam tibi inponas, quae sapienti viro ita aptanda est, ut perferatur. Vale.

16. (BOOK 2. 1.)

A sketch of the life and character of Verginius.

C. PLINIUS ROMANO SUO S.

Post aliquot annos insigne atque etiam memorabile populi Romani oculis spectaculum exhibuit publicum funus Vergini Rufi, maximi et clarissimi civis, perinde felicis. Triginta annis gloriae suae supervixit: legit scripta de se carmina, legit historias et posteritati suae interfuit. Perfunctus est tertio consulatu, ut summum fastigium privati hominis inpleret, cum principis noluisset. Caesares quibus suspectus atque etiam invisus virtutibus fuerat evasit, reliquit incolumem optimum atque amicissimum, tamquam ad hunc ipsum honorem publici funeris reservatus. Annum tertium et octogensimum excessit in altissima tranquillitate, pari veneratione. Usus est firma valetudine, nisi quod solebant ei manus tremere, citra dolorem tamen. Aditus tantum mortis durior longiorque, sed hic ipse laudabilis. Nam cum vocem praepararet acturus in consulatu principi gratias, liber, quem forte acceperat grandiorem, et seni et stanti ipso pondere elapsus est. Hunc dum sequitur colligitque,

per leve et lubricum pavimentum fallente vestigio cecidit coxamque fregit, quae parum apte collocata reluctante aetate male coiit. Huius viri exequiae magnum ornamentum principi, magnum saeculo, magnum etiam foro et rostris attulerunt. Laudatus est a consule Cornelio Tacito: nam hic supremus felicitati eius cumulus accessit, laudator eloquentissimus. Et ille quidem plenus annis abiit, plenus honoribus, illis etiam quos recusavit: nobis tamen quaerendus ac desiderandus est ut exemplar aevi prioris, mihi vero praecipue, qui illum non solum publice quantum admirabar tantum diligebam; primum quod utrique eadem regio, municipia finitima, agri etiam possessionesque coniunctae, praeterea quod ille mihi tutor relictus adfectum parentis exhibuit. Sic candidatum me suffragio ornavit, sic ad omnes honores meos ex secessibus accucurrit, cum iam pridem eius modi officiis renuntiasset, sic illo die, quo sacerdotes solent nominare quos dignissimos sacerdotio iudicant, me semper nominabat. Quin etiam in hac novissima valetudine veritus ne forte inter quinqueviros crearetur, qui minuendis publicis sumptibus iudicio senatus constituebantur, cum illi tot amici senes consularesque superessent, me huius aetatis per quem excusaretur elegit, his quidem verbis, 'etiam si filium haberem, tibi mandarem.' Quibus ex causis necesse est tamquam inmaturam mortem eius in sinu tuo defleam; si tamen fas est aut flere aut omnino mortem vocare, qua tanti viri mortalitas magis finita quam vita est. Vivit enim vivetque semper atque etiam latius in memoria hominum et sermone versabitur, postquam ab oculis recessit. Volui tibi multa alia scribere, sed totus animus in hac una contemplatione defixus est: Verginium cogito, Verginium video, Verginium iam vanis imaginibus, recentibus tamen, audio, adloquor, teneo. Cui fortasse cives aliquos virtutibus pares et habemus et habebimus, gloria neminem. Vale.

17. (BOOK 2. 6.)

Pliny cautions Avitus against the mean economy, which he had witnessed, of making distinctions between guests of the same table in the quality of the entertainment provided for them.

C. PLINIUS AVITO SUO S.

Longum est altius repetere, nec refert quem ad modum accideret ut homo minime familiaris cenarem apud quendam, ut sibi videbatur, lautum et diligentem, ut mihi, sordidum simul et sumptuosum. Nam sibi et paucis opima quaedam, ceteris vilia et minuta ponebat. Vinum etiam parvulis lagunculis in tria genera discripserat, non ut potestas eligendi, sed ne ius esset recusandi, aliud sibi et nobis, aliud minoribus amicis (nam gradatim amicos habet), aliud suis nostrisque libertis. Animadvertit qui mihi proximus recumbebat et an probarem interrogavit. Negavi. 'Tu ergo' inquit 'quam consuetudinem sequeris'? 'Eadem omnibus pono: ad cenam enim, non ad notam invito cunctisque rebus exaequo, quos mensa et toro aequavi'. 'Etiamne libertos'? 'Etiam: convictores enim tunc, non libertos puto'. Et ille 'magno tibi constat'. 'Minime'. 'Qui fieri potest'? 'Quia scilicet liberti mei non idem quod ego bibunt, sed idem ego quod liberti.' Et hercule si gulae temperes, non est onerosum quo utaris ipse communicare cum pluribus. Illa ergo reprimenda, illa quasi in ordinem redigenda est, si sumptibus parcas, quibus aliquanto rectius tua continentia quam aliena contumelia consulas. Quorsus haec? Ne tibi, optimae indolis iuveni, quorundam in mensa luxuria specie frugalitatis imponat. Convenit autem amori in te meo, quotiens tale aliquid inciderit, sub exemplo praemonere, quid debeas fugere. Igitur memento nihil magis esse vitandum, quam istam luxuriae et sordium novam societatem; quae cum sint turpissima discreta ac separata, turpius iunguntur. Vale.

18. (BOOK 2. 10.)

Pliny begs Octavius Rufus to collect and publish, or at any rate to recite, his poems.

C. PLINIUS OCTAVIO SUO S.

Hominem te patientem vel potius durum ac paene crudelem, qui tam insignes libros tam diu teneas! Quousque et tibi et nobis invidebis, tibi maxima laude, nobis voluptate? Sine per ora hominum ferantur isdemque quibus lingua Romana spatiis pervagentur. Magna et iam longa expectatio est, quam frustrari adhuc et differre non debes. Enotuerunt quidam tui versus et invito te claustra sua refregerunt. Hos nisi retrahis in corpus, quandoque ut errones aliquem cuius dicantur invenient. Habe ante oculos mortalitatem, a qua adserere te hoc uno monimento potes: nam cetera fragilia et caduca non minus quam ipsi homines occidunt desinuntque. Dices, ut soles, 'amici mei viderint'. Opto equidem amicos tibi tam fideles, tam eruditos, tam laboriosos, ut tantum curae intentionisque suscipere et possint et velint. Sed dispice ne sit parum providum sperare ex aliis quod tibi ipse non praestes. Et de editione quidem interim ut voles: recita saltem, quo magis libeat emittere, utque tandem percipias gaudium, quod ego olim pro te non temere praesumo. Imaginor enim qui concursus, quae admiratio te, qui clamor, quod etiam silentium maneat; quo ego, cum dico vel recito, non minus quam clamore delector, sit modo silentium acre et intentum et cupidum ulteriora audiendi. Hoc fructu tanto, tam parato desine studia tua infinita ista cunctatione fraudare; quae cum modum excedit, verendum est ne inertiae et desidiae vel etiam timiditatis nomen accipiat. Vale.

19. (BOOK 2. 13.)

Pliny recommends to Priscus for promotion Voconius Romanus, his intimate and accomplished friend.

C. PLINIUS PRISCO SUO S.

Et tu occasiones obligandi me avidissime amplecteris, et ego nemini libentius debeo. Duabus ergo de causis a te potissimum petere constitui, quod inpetratum maxime cupio. Regis exercitum amplissimum; hinc tibi beneficiorum larga materia: longum praeterea tempus, quo amicos tuos exornare potuisti. Converte te ad nostros, nec hos multos. Malles tu quidem multos; sed meae verecundiae sufficit unus aut alter, ac potius unus. Is erit Voconius Romanus. Pater ei in equestri gradu clarus, clarior vitricus, immo pater alius: nam huic quoque nomini pietate successit. Mater e primis citerioris Hispaniae: scis quod iudicium provinciae illius, quanta sit gravitas. Ipse flamen proxime fuit. Hunc ego, cum simul studeremus, arte familiariterque dilexi: ille meus in urbe, ille in secessu contubernalis, cum hoc seria, cum hoc iocos miscui. Quid enim illo aut fidelius amico aut sodale iucundius? mira in sermone, mira etiam in ore ipso vultuque suavitas. Ad hoc ingenium excelsum, subtile, dulce, facile, eruditum in causis agendis: epistulas quidem scribit, ut Musas ipsas latine loqui credas. Amatur a me plurimum nec tamen vincitur. Equidem iuvenis statim iuveni quantum potui per aetatem avidissime contuli et nuper ab optimo principe trium liberorum ius impetravi, quod quamquam parce et cum delectu daret, mihi tamen, tamquam eligeret, indulsit. Haec beneficia mea tueri nullo modo melius, quam ut augeam, possum, praesertim cum ipse illa tam grate interpretetur, ut, dum priora accipit, posteriora mereatur. Habes qualis, quam probatus carusque sit nobis, quem rogo pro ingenio, pro fortuna tua exornes. In primis ama hominem: nam

licet tribuas ei quantum amplissimum potes, nihil tamen amplius potes amicitia tua; cuius esse eum usque ad intimam familiaritatem capacem quo magis scires, breviter tibi studia, mores, omnem denique vitam eius expressi. Extenderem preces, nisi et tu rogari diu nolles, et ego tota hoc epistula fecissem: rogat enim, et quidem efficacissime, qui reddit causas rogandi. Vale.

20. (BOOK 2. 14.)

Pliny complains that the centumviral court, in which his practice lies, is being rapidly deteriorated by the audacity of the younger pleaders, and the paid applause of their audience.

C. PLINIUS MAXIMO SUO S.

Verum opinaris: distringor centumviralibus causis, quae me exercent magis quam delectant. Sunt enim pleraeque parvae et exiles: raro incidit vel personarum claritate vel negotii magnitudine insignis. Ad hoc pauci cum quibus iuvet dicere: ceteri audaces atque etiam magna ex parte adulescentuli obscuri ad declamandum huc transierunt, tam inreverenter et temere, ut mihi Atilius noster expresse dixisse videatur sic in foro pueros a centumviralibus causis auspicari, ut ab Homero in scholis. Nam hic quoque, ut illic, primum coepit esse quod maximum est. At hercule ante memoriam meam (ita maiores natu solent dicere) ne nobilissimis quidem adulescentibus locus erat nisi aliquo consulari producente: tanta veneratione pulcherrimum opus colebatur. Nunc refractis pudoris et reverentiae claustris omnia patent omnibus, nec inducuntur, sed inrumpunt. Sequuntur audi- tores actoribus similes, conducti et redempti: manceps convenitur: in media basilica tam palam sportulae quam in triclinio dantur: ex iudicio in iudicium pari mercede transitur. Inde iam non inurbane Σοφοκλεῖς vocantur [ἀπὸ τοῦ σοφῶς καὶ καλεῖσθαι]: isdem latinum nomen inpositum est

Laudiceni. Et tamen crescit in dies foeditas utraque lingua notata. Here duo nomenclatores mei (habent sane aetatem eorum qui nuper togas sumpserint) ternis denariis ad laudandum trahebantur. Tanti constat ut sis disertissimus. Hoc pretio quamlibet numerosa subsellia inplentur, hoc ingens corona colligitur, hoc infiniti clamores commoventur, cum mesochorus dedit signum. Opus est enim signo apud non intellegentes, ne audientes quidem: nam plerique non audiunt, nec ulli magis laudant. Siquando transibis per basilicam et voles scire quo modo quisque dicat, nihil est quod tribunal ascendas, nihil quod praebeas aurem; facilis divinatio: scito eum pessime dicere, qui laudabitur maxime. Primus hunc audiendi morem induxit Largius Licinus, hactenus tamen ut auditores corrogaret: ita certe ex Quintiliano, praeceptore meo, audisse memini. Narrabat ille 'adsectabar Domitium Afrum. Cum apud centumviros diceret graviter et lente (hoc enim illi actionis genus erat), audit ex proximo inmodicum insolitumque clamorem. Admiratus reticuit. Ubi silentium factum est, repetit quod abruperat. Iterum clamor, iterum reticuit, et post silentium coepit idem tertio. Novissime quis diceret quaesivit: responsum est "Licinus". Tum intermissa causa "centumviri" inquit, "hoc artificium periit".' Quod alioqui perire incipiebat, cum perisse Afro videretur, nunc vero prope funditus extinctum et eversum est. Pudet referre quae quam fracta pronuntiatione dicantur, quibus quam taetris clamoribus excipiantur. Plausus tantum ac potius sola cymbala et tympana illis canticis desunt: ululatus quidem (neque enim alio vocabulo potest exprimi theatris quoque indecora laudatio) large supersunt. Nos tamen adhuc et utilitas amicorum et ratio aetatis moratur ac retinet. Veremur enim ne forte non has indignitates reliquisse, sed laborem fugisse videamur. Sumus tamen solito rariores, quod initium est gradatim desinendi. Vale.

21. (BOOK 2. 17.)

A description of Pliny's Laurentine country house.

C. PLINIUS GALLO SUO S.

Miraris cur me Laurentinum vel, si ita mavis, Laurens meum tanto opere delectet: desines mirari, cum cognoveris gratiam villae, opportunitatem loci, litoris spatium. Decem et septem milibus passuum ab urbe recessit, ut peractis quae agenda fuerint salvo iam et composito die possis ibi manere. Aditur non una via: nam et Laurentina et Ostiensis eodem ferunt, sed Laurentina a quarto decimo lapide, Ostiensis ab undecimo relinquenda est. Utrimque excipit iter aliqua ex parte harenosum, iunctis paulo gravius et longius, equo breve et molle. Varia hinc atque inde facies: nam modo occurrentibus silvis via coartatur, modo latissimis pratis diffunditur et patescit; multi greges ovium, multa ibi equorum boum armenta, quae montibus hieme depulsa herbis et tepore verno nitescunt. Villa usibus capax, non sumptuosa tutela. Cuius in prima parte atrium frugi nec tamen sordidum; deinde porticus in D litterae similitudinem circumactae, quibus parvula, sed festiva area includitur, egregium adversus tempestates receptaculum: nam specularibus ac multo magis imminentibus tectis muniuntur. Est contra medias cavaedium hilare, mox triclinium satis pulchrum, quod in litus excurrit, ac siquando africo mare inpulsum est, fractis iam et novissimis fluctibus leviter adluitur. Undique valvas aut fenestras non minores valvis habet, atque ita a lateribus, a fronte quasi tria maria prospectat; a tergo cavaedium, porticum, aream, porticum rursus, mox atrium, silvas et longinquos respicit montes. Huius a laeva retractius paulo cubiculum est amplum, deinde aliud minus, quod altera fenestra admittit orientem, occidentem altera retinet, hac et subiacens mare longius quidem, sed securius intuetur. Huius cubiculi et triclinii illius obiectu includitur angulus, qui

purissimum solem continet et accendit. Hoc hibernaculum, hoc etiam gymnasium meorum est: ibi omnes silent venti exceptis qui nubilum inducunt et serenum ante quam usum loci eripiunt. Adnectitur angulo cubiculum in hapsida curvatum, quod ambitum solis fenestris omnibus sequitur. Parieti eius in bibliothecae speciem armarium insertum est, quod non legendos libros, sed lectitandos capit. Adhaeret dormitorium membrum transitu interiacente, qui suspensus et tubulatus conceptum vaporem salubri temperamento huc illuc digerit et ministrat. Reliqua pars lateris huius servorum libertorumque usibus detinetur, plerisque tam mundis, ut accipere hospites possint. Ex alio latere cubiculum est politissimum; deinde vel cubiculum grande vel modica cenatio, quae plurimo sole, plurimo mari lucet; post hanc cubiculum cum procoetone, altitudine aestivum, munimentis hibernum: est enim subductum omnibus ventis. Huic cubiculo aliud et procoeton communi pariete iunguntur. Inde balinei cella frigidaria spatiosa et effusa, cuius in contrariis parietibus duo baptisteria velut eiecta sinuantur, abunde capacia, si mare in proximo cogites. Adiacet unctorium, hypocauston, adiacet propnigeon balinei, mox duae cellae magis elegantes quam sumptuosae: cohaeret calida piscina mirifica, ex qua natantes mare aspiciunt; nec procul sphaeristerium, quod calidissimo soli inclinato iam die occurrit. Hic turris erigitur, sub qua diaetae duae, totidem in ipsa, praeterea cenatio, quae latissimum mare, longissimum litus, villas amoenissimas prospicit. Est et alia turris: in hac cubiculum, in quo sol nascitur conditurque: lata post apotheca et horreum: sub hoc triclinium, quod turbati maris non nisi fragorem et sonum patitur, eumque iam languidum ac desinentem; hortum et gestationem videt, qua hortus includitur. Gestatio buxo aut rore marino, ubi deficit buxus, ambitur: nam buxus, qua parte defenditur tectis, abunde viret; aperto caelo apertoque vento et quamquam

longinqua aspergine maris inarescit. Adiacet gestationi interiore circumitu vinea tenera et umbrosa nudisque etiam pedibus mollis et cedens. Hortum morus et ficus frequens vestit, quarum arborum illa vel maxime ferax terra est, malignior ceteris. Hac non deteriore quam maris facie cenatio remota a mari fruitur: cingitur diaetis duabus a tergo, quarum fenestris subiacet vestibulum villae et hortus alius pinguis et rusticus. Hinc cryptoporticus prope publici operis extenditur. Utrimque fenestrae, a mari plures, ab horto singulae, sed alternis pauciores. Hae, cum serenus dies et inmotus, omnes, cum hinc vel inde ventis inquietus, qua venti quiescunt, sine iniuria patent. Ante cryptoporticum xystus violis odoratus: teporem solis infusi repercussu cryptoporticus auget, quae ut tenet solem, sic aquilonem inhibet summovetque, quantumque caloris ante tantum retro frigoris. Similiter africum sistit atque ita diversissimos ventos alium alio latere frangit et finit. Haec iucunditas eius hieme, maior aestate. Nam ante meridiem xystum, post meridiem gestationis hortique proximam partem umbra sua temperat, quae, ut dies crevit decrevitve, modo brevior modo longior hac vel illa cadit. Ipsa vero cryptoporticus tum maxime caret sole, cum ardentissimus culmini eius insistit. Ad hoc patentibus fenestris favonios accipit transmittitque nec umquam aëre pigro et manente ingravescit. In capite xysti deinceps [cryptoporticus horti] diaeta est, amores mei, re vera amores: ipse posui. In hac heliocaminus quidem alia xystum, alia mare, utraque solem, cubiculum autem valvis cryptoporticum, fenestra prospicit mare. Contra parietem medium zotheca perquam eleganter recedit, quae specularibus et velis obductis reductisve modo adicitur cubiculo, modo aufertur. Lectum et duas cathedras capit: a pedibus mare, a tergo villae, a capite silvae: tot facies locorum totidem fenestris et distinguit et miscet. Iunctum est cubiculum noctis et somni. Non illud voces

servulorum, non maris murmur, non tempestatum motus, non fulgurum lumen ac ne diem quidem sentit, nisi fenestris apertis. Tam alti abditique secreti illa ratio, quod interiacens andron parietem cubiculi hortique distinguit atque ita omnem sonum media inanitate consumit. Adplicitum est cubiculo hypocauston perexiguum, quod angusta fenestra suppositum calorem, ut ratio exigit, aut effundit aut retinet. Procoeton inde et cubiculum porrigitur in solem, quem orientem statim exceptum ultra meridiem oblicum quidem, sed tamen servat. In hanc ego diaetam cum me recepi, abesse mihi etiam a villa mea videor, magnamque eius voluptatem praecipue Saturnalibus capio, cum reliqua pars tecti licentia dierum festisque clamoribus personat: nam nec ipse meorum lusibus nec illi studiis meis obstrepunt. Haec utilitas, haec amoenitas deficitur aqua salienti, sed puteos ac potius fontes habet: sunt enim in summo. Et omnino litoris illius mira natura: quocumque loco moveris humum, obvius et paratus umor occurrit, isque sincerus ac ne leviter quidem tanta maris vicinitate corruptus. Suggerunt adfatim ligna proximae silvae: ceteras copias Ostiensis colonia ministrat. Frugi quidem homini sufficit etiam vicus, quem una villa discernit: in hoc balinea meritoria tria, magna commoditas, si forte balineum domi vel subitus adventus vel brevior mora calfacere dissuadeat. Litus ornant varietate gratissima nunc continua nunc intermissa tecta villarum, quae praestant multarum urbium faciem, sive mari sive ipso litore utare; quod non numquam longa tranquillitas mollit, saepius frequens et contrarius fluctus indurat. Mare non sane pretiosis piscibus abundat, soleas tamen et squillas optimas egerit. Villa vero nostra etiam mediterraneas copias praestat, lac in primis: nam illuc e pascuis pecora conveniunt, siquando aquam umbramve sectantur. Iustisne de causis iam tibi videor incolere, inhabitare, diligere secessum? quem tu nimis urbanus es nisi concupiscis. Atque utinam

Et Aurelia quidem vivit, ille tamen istud tamquam morituram coëgit, et hic hereditates, hic legata, quasi mereatur, accipit. Ἀλλὰ τί διατείνομαι in ea civitate, in qua iam pridem non minora praemia, immo maiora, nequitia et improbitas quam pudor et virtus habent? Aspice Regulum, qui ex paupere et tenui ad tantas opes per flagitia processit, ut ipse mihi dixerit, cum consuleret, quam cito sestertium sescenties inpleturus esset, invenisse se exta duplicia, quibus portendi milies et ducenties habiturum. Et habebit, si modo, ut coepit, aliena testamenta, quod est inprobissimum genus falsi, ipsis quorum sunt illa dictaverit. Vale.

24. (BOOK 3. 1.)

Pliny describes with admiration the method and refinement with which Spurinna disposes the leisure of his old age.

C. PLINIUS CALVISIO SUO S.

Nescio an ullum iucundius tempus exegerim, quam quo nuper apud Spurinnam fui, adeo quidem, ut neminem magis in senectute, si modo senescere datum est, aemulari velim: nihil est enim illo vitae genere distinctius. Me autem ut certus siderum cursus ita vita hominum disposita delectat, senum praesertim. Nam iuvenes confusa adhuc quaedam et quasi turbata non indecent; senibus placida omnia et ordinata conveniunt, quibus industria sera, turpis ambitio est. Hanc regulam Spurinna constantissime servat; quin etiam parva haec, parva, si non cotidie fiant, ordine quodam et velut orbe circumagit. Mane lectulo continetur, hora secunda calceos poscit, ambulat milia passuum tria nec minus animum quam corpus exercet. Si adsunt amici, honestissimi sermones explicantur; si non, liber legitur, interdum etiam praesentibus amicis, si tamen illi non gravantur. Deinde considit, et liber rursus aut sermo libro potior: mox vehiculum ascendit, adsumit uxorem singularis

exempli vel aliquem amicorum, ut me proxime. Quam pulchrum illud, quam dulce secretum! quantum ibi antiquitatis! quae facta, quos viros audias! quibus praeceptis imbuare! quamvis ille hoc temperamentum modestiae suae indixerit, ne praecipere videatur. Peractis septem milibus passuum iterum ambulat mille, iterum residit vel se cubiculo ac stilo reddit. Scribit enim, et quidem utraque lingua, lyrica doctissime: mira illis dulcedo, mira suavitas, mira hilaritas, cuius gratiam cumulat sanctitas scribentis. Ubi hora balinei nuntiata est (est autem hieme nona, aestate octava), in sole, si caret vento, ambulat nudus. Deinde movetur pila vehementer et diu: nam hoc quoque exercitationis genere pugnat cum senectute. Lotus accubat et paulisper cibum differt: interim audit legentem remissius aliquid et dulcius. Per hoc omne tempus liberum est amicis vel eadem facere vel alia, si malint. Adponitur cena non minus nitida quam frugi in argento puro et antiquo: sunt in usu et Corinthia, quibus delectatur nec adficitur. Frequenter comoedis cena distinguitur, ut voluptates quoque studiis condiantur. Sumit aliquid de nocte et aestate: nemini hoc longum est; tanta comitate convivium trahitur. Inde illi post septimum et septuagensimum annum aurium oculorum vigor integer, inde agile et vividum corpus solaque ex senectute prudentia. Hanc ego vitam voto et cogitatione praesumo, ingressurus avidissime, ut primum ratio aetatis receptui canere permiserit. Interim mille laboribus conteror, quorum mihi et solacium et exemplum est idem Spurinna. Nam ille quoque, quoad honestum fuit, obiit officia, gessit magistratus, provincias rexit multoque labore hoc otium meruit. Igitur eundem mihi cursum, eundem terminum statuo, idque iam nunc apud te subsigno, ut, si me longius evehi videris, in ius voces ad hanc epistulam meam et quiescere iubeas, cum inertiae crimen effugero. Vale.

25. (BOOK 3. 5.)

Pliny enumerates in order the books written by his uncle; and describes the habits of extraordinary industry which enabled him to complete so vast an amount of work.

C. PLINIUS BAEBIO MACRO SUO S.

Pergratum est mihi quod tam diligenter libros avunculi mei lectitas, ut habere omnes velis quaerasque qui sint omnes. Fungar indicis partibus atque etiam quo sint ordine scripti notum tibi faciam: est enim haec quoque studiosis non iniucunda cognitio. 'De iaculatione equestri unus:' hunc, cum praefectus alae militaret, pari ingenio curaque conposuit.' 'De vita Pomponi Secundi duo,' a quo singulariter amatus hoc memoriae amici quasi debitum munus exsolvit. 'Bellorum Germaniae viginti,' quibus omnia quae cum Germanis gessimus bella collegit. Inchoavit, cum in Germania militaret, somnio monitus: adstitit ei quiescenti Drusi Neronis effigies, qui Germaniae latissime victor ibi periit, commendabat memoriam suam orabatque ut se ab iniuria oblivionis adsereret. 'Studiosi tres,' in sex volumina propter amplitudinem divisi, quibus oratorem ab incunabulis instituit et perficit. 'Dubii sermonis octo:' scripsit sub Nerone novissimis annis, cum omne studiorum genus paulo liberius et erectius periculosum servitus fecisset. 'A fine Aufidi Bassi triginta unus.' 'Naturae historiarum triginta septem,' opus diffusum, eruditum, nec minus varium quam ipsa natura. Miraris quod tot volumina multaque in his tam scrupulosa homo occupatus absolverit: magis miraberis, si scieris illum aliquandiu causas actitasse, decessisse anno sexto et quinquagensimo, medium tempus distentum impeditumque qua officiis maximis qua amicitia principum egisse. Sed erat acre ingenium, incredibile studium, summa vigilantia. Lucubrare Vulcanalibus incipiebat, non auspi-

candi causa, sed studendi, statim a nocte multa, hieme vero ab hora septima, vel cum tardissime, octava, saepe sexta. Erat sane somni paratissimi, non numquam etiam inter ipsa studia instantis et deserentis. Ante lucem ibat ad Vespasianum imperatorem (nam ille quoque noctibus utebatur), inde ad delegatum sibi officium. Reversus domum, quod reliquum temporis, studiis reddebat. Post cibum saepe, quem interdiu levem et facilem veterum more sumebat, aestate, siquid otii, iacebat in sole, liber legebatur, adnotabat excerpebatque. Nihil enim legit quod non excerperet: dicere etiam solebat nullum esse librum tam malum, ut non aliqua parte prodesset. Post solem plerumque frigida lavabatur: deinde gustabat dormiebatque minimum: mox quasi alio die studebat in cenae tempus. Super hanc liber legebatur, adnotabatur, et quidem cursim. Memini quendam ex amicis, cum lector quaedam perperam pronuntiasset, revocasse et repeti coëgisse, huic avunculum meum dixisse 'intellexeras nempe?' cum ille adnuisset, 'cur ergo revocabas? decem amplius versus hac tua interpellatione perdidimus.' Tanta erat parsimonia temporis. Surgebat aestate a cena luce, hieme intra primam noctis, et tamquam aliqua lege cogente. Haec inter medios labores urbisque fremitum. In secessu solum balinei tempus studiis eximebatur: cum dico balinei, de interioribus loquor; nam dum destringitur tergiturque, audiebat aliquid aut dictabat. In itinere quasi solutus ceteris curis huic uni vacabat: ad latus notarius cum libro et pugillaribus, cuius manus hieme manicis muniebantur, ut ne caeli quidem asperitas ullum studiis tempus eriperet: qua ex causa Romae quoque sella vehebatur. Repeto me correptum ab eo cur ambularem: 'poteras' inquit 'has horas non perdere;' nam perire omne tempus arbitrabatur, quod studiis non impenderetur. Hac intentione tot ista volumina peregit electorumque commentarios centum sexaginta mihi reliquit, opisthographos

quidem et minutissime scriptos; qua ratione multiplicatur hic numerus. Referebat ipse potuisse se, cum procuraret in Hispania, vendere hos commentarios Largio Licinio quadringentis milibus nummum, et tunc aliquanto pauciores erant. Nonne videtur tibi recordanti quantum legerit, quantum scripserit, nec in officiis ullis nec in amicitia principis fuisse, rursus, cum audis quid studiis laboris inpenderit, nec scripsisse satis nec legisse? Quid est enim quod non aut illae occupationes inpedire aut haec instantia non possit efficere? Itaque soleo ridere, cum me quidem studiosum vocant, qui, si comparer illi, sum desidiosissimus. Ego autem tantum, quem partim publica partim amicorum officia distringunt? quis ex istis qui tota vita litteris adsident collatus illi non quasi somno et inertiae deditus erubescat? Extendi epistulam, cum hoc solum quod requirebas scribere destinassem, quos libros reliquisset: confido tamen haec quoque tibi non minus grata quam ipsos libros futura, quae te non tantum ad legendos eos verum etiam ad simile aliquid elaborandum possunt aemulationis stimulis excitare. Vale.

26. (BOOK 3. 6.)

Pliny asks Severus to prepare a pedestal for a valuable and beautiful bronze figure, which he has bought to present to the temple of Jupiter at Comum.

C. PLINIUS ANNIO SEVERO SUO S.

Ex hereditate quae mihi obvenit emi proxime Corinthium signum, modicum quidem, sed festivum et expressum, quantum ego sapio, qui fortasse in omni re, in hac certe perquam exiguum sapio: hoc tamen signum ego quoque intellego. Est enim nudum nec aut vitia, siqua sunt, celat aut laudes parum ostentat: effingit senem stantem;

ossa, musculi, nervi, venae, rugae etiam ut spirantis apparent, rari et cedentes capilli, lata frons, contracta facies, exile collum, pendent lacerti, papillae iacent, venter recessit. A tergo quoque eadem aetas ut a tergo. Aes ipsum, quantum verus color indicat, vetus et antiquum. Talia denique omnia, ut possint artificum oculos tenere, delectare imperitorum. Quod me quamquam tirunculum sollicitavit ad emendum. Emi autem, non ut haberem domi (neque enim ullum adhuc Corinthium domi habeo), verum ut in patria nostra celebri loco ponerem, ac potissimum in Iovis templo: videtur enim dignum templo, dignum deo donum. Tu ergo, ut soles omnia quae a me tibi iniunguntur, suscipe hanc curam et iam nunc iube basim fieri ex quo voles marmore, quae nomen meum honoresque capiat, si hos quoque putabis addendos. Ego signum ipsum, ut primum invenero aliquem qui non gravetur, mittam tibi vel ipse, quod mavis, adferam mecum. Destino enim, si tamen officii ratio permiserit, excurrere isto. Gaudes quod me venturum esse polliceor, sed contrahes frontem, cum adiecero ad paucos dies: neque enim diutius abesse me eadem haec quae nondum exire patiuntur. Vale.

27. (BOOK 3. 7.)

Pliny gives a sketch of the life and abilities of Silius the poet; and takes occasion by his death both to reflect on the shortness of life, and again to urge Caninius to literary effort.

C. PLINIUS CANINIO RUFO SUO S.

Modo nuntiatus est Silius Italicus in Neapolitano suo inedia finisse vitam. Causa mortis valetudo. Erat illi natus insanabilis clavus, cuius taedio ad mortem inrevocabili constantia decucurrit, usque ad supremum diem beatus et felix, nisi quod minorem ex liberis duobus amisit; sed maiorem

melioremque florentem atque etiam consularem reliquit. Laeserat famam suam sub Nerone, credebatur sponte accusasse; sed in Vitelli amicitia sapienter se et comiter gesserat, ex proconsulatu Asiae gloriam reportaverat, maculam veteris industriae laudabili otio abluerat. Fuit inter principes civitatis sine potentia, sine invidia: salutabatur, colebatur multumque in lectulo iacens cubiculo semper non ex fortuna frequenti doctissimis sermonibus dies transigebat, cum a scribendo vacaret. Scribebat carmina maiore cura quam ingenio, non numquam iudicia hominum recitationibus experiebatur. Novissime ita suadentibus annis ab urbe secessit seque in Campania tenuit, ac ne adventu quidem novi principis inde commotus est. Magna Caesaris laus, sub quo hoc liberum fuit, magna illius, qui hac libertate ausus est uti. Erat φιλόκαλος usque ad emacitatis reprehensionem. Plures isdem in locis villas possidebat adamatisque novis priores neglegebat. Multum ubique librorum, multum statuarum, multum imaginum, quas non habebat modo verum etiam venerabatur, Vergili ante omnes, cuius natalem religiosius quam suum celebrabat, Neapoli maxime, ubi monimentum eius adire ut templum solebat. In hac tranquillitate annum quintum et septuagensimum excessit, delicato magis corpore quam infirmo; utque novissimus a Nerone factus est consul, ita postremus ex omnibus quos Nero consules fecerat decessit. Illud etiam notabile, ultimus ex Neronianis consularibus obiit quo consule Nero periit. Quod me recordantem fragilitatis humanae miseratio subit. Quid enim tam circumcisum, tam breve quam hominis vita longissima? an non videtur tibi Nero modo modo fuisse? cum interim ex iis qui sub illo gesserant consulatum nemo iam superest. Quamquam quid hoc miror? nuper L. Piso, pater Pisonis illius qui a Valerio Festo per summum facinus in Africa occisus est, dicere solebat neminem se videre in senatu quem consul ipse sententiam rogavisset.

Tam angustis terminis tantae multitudinis vivacitas ipsa concluditur, ut mihi non venia solum dignae verum etiam laude videantur illae regiae lacrimae. Nam ferunt Xerxen, cum inmensum exercitum oculis obisset, inlacrimasse, quod tot milibus tam brevis immineret occasus. Sed tanto magis hoc quidquid est temporis futilis et caduci, si non datur factis (nam horum materia in aliena manu), certe studiis proferamus, et quatenus nobis denegatur diu vivere, relinquamus aliquid quo nos vixisse testemur. Scio te stimulis non egere; me tamen tui caritas evocat ut currentem quoque instigem, sicut tu soles me. Ἀγαθὴ δ' ἔρις, cum invicem se mutuis exhortationibus amici ad amorem inmortalitatis exacuunt. Vale.

28. (BOOK 3. 11.)

Pliny, while deprecating the excessive gratitude of Artemidorus, relates with some satisfaction the dangerous services which he had rendered to a man so worthy of his regard.

C. PLINIUS IULIO GENITORI SUO S.

Est omnino Artemidori nostri tam benigna natura, ut officia amicorum in maius extollat: inde etiam meum meritum ut vera ita supra meritum praedicatione circumfert. Equidem, cum essent philosophi ab urbe summoti, fui apud illum in suburbano, et quo notabilius, hoc est periculosius, esset, fui praetor. Pecuniam etiam, qua tunc illi ampliore opus erat, ut aes alienum exsolveret contractum ex pulcherrimis causis, mussantibus magnis quibusdam et locupletibus amicis mutuatus ipse gratuitam dedi. Atque haec feci, cum septem amicis meis aut occisis aut relegatis, occisis Senecione Rustico Helvidio, relegatis Maurico Gratilla Arria Fannia, tot circa me iactis fulminibus quasi ambustus mihi quoque inpendere idem exitium certis quibusdam notis

augurarer. Non ideo tamen eximiam gloriam meruisse me, ut ille praedicat, credo, sed tantum effugisse flagitium. Nam et C. Musonium, socerum eius, quantum licitum est per aetatem, cum admiratione dilexi et Artemidorum ipsum iam tum, cum in Syria tribunus militarem, arta familiaritate complexus sum, idque primum non nullius indolis dedi specimen, quod virum aut sapientem aut proximum similli-mumque sapienti intellegere sum visus. Nam ex omnibus qui nunc se philosophos vocant vix unum aut alterum invenies tanta sinceritate, tanta veritate. Mitto qua patientia corporis hiemes iuxta et aestates ferat, ut nullis laboribus cedat, ut nihil in cibo, in potu voluptatibus tribuat, ut oculos animumque contineat. Sunt haec magna, sed in alio; in hoc vero minima, si ceteris virtutibus comparentur, quibus meruit ut a C. Musonio ex omnibus omnium ordinum adsectatoribus gener adsumeretur. Quae mihi recordanti est quidem iucundum quod me cum apud alios tum apud te tantis laudibus cumulat, vereor tamen ne modum excedat, quem benignitas eius (illuc enim unde coepi revertor) solet non tenere. Nam in hoc uno interdum vir alioqui prudentissimus honesto quidem sed tamen errore versatur, quod pluris amicos suos quam sunt arbitratur. Vale.

29. (BOOK 3. 12.)

Pliny accepts Catilius' invitation on condition that the fare shall be simple, and the party shall break up in time to avoid a repetition of Cato's misadventure.

C. PLINIUS CATILIO SEVERO SUO S.

Veniam ad cenam: sed iam nunc paciscor sit expedita, sit parca, Socraticis tantum sermonibus abundet, in his quoque teneat modum. Erunt officia antelucana, in quae incidere inpune ne Catoni quidem licuit, quem tamen C.

Caesar ita reprehendit, ut laudet. Describit enim eos quibus obvius fuerit, cum caput ebrii retexissent, erubuisse: deinde adicit 'putares non ab illis Catonem, sed illos a Catone deprehensos.' Potuitne plus auctoritatis tribui Catoni, quam si ebrius quoque tam venerabilis erat? Nostrae tamen cenae ut apparatus et inpendii sic temporis modus constet. Neque enim ii sumus quos vituperare ne inimici quidem possint, nisi ut simul laudent. Vale.

30. (BOOK 3. 14.)

Pliny relates the murder of Largius Macedo by his slaves, and adds an ominous circumstance from his previous life.

C. PLINIUS ACILIO SUO S.

Rem atrocem nec tantum epistula dignam Largius Macedo, vir praetorius, a servis suis passus est, superbus alioqui dominus et saevus et qui servisse patrem suum parum, immo nimium meminisset. Lavabatur in villa Formiana: repente eum servi circumsistunt: alius fauces invadit, alius os verberat, alius pectus et ventrem atque etiam, foedum dictu, verenda contundit; et cum exanimem putarent, abiciunt in fervens pavimentum, ut experirentur an viveret. Ille, sive quia non sentiebat, sive quia se non sentire simulabat, immobilis et extentus fidem peractae mortis implevit. Tum demum quasi aestu solutus effertur: excipiunt servi fideliores, concubinae cum ululatu et clamore concurrunt. Ita et vocibus excitatus et recreatus loci frigore sublatis oculis agitatoque corpore vivere se, et iam tutum erat, confitetur. Diffugiunt servi; quorum magna pars comprehensa est, ceteri requiruntur. Ipse paucis diebus aegre focilatus non sine ultionis solacio decessit, ita vivus vindicatus, ut occisi solent. Vides quot periculis, quot contumeliis, quot ludibriis simus obnoxii

nec est quod quisquam possit esse securus, quia sit remissus et mitis; non enim iudicio domini, sed scelere perimuntur. Verum haec hactenus. Quid praeterea novi? quid? nihil; alioqui subiungerem: nam et charta adhuc superest, et dies feriatus patitur plura contexi. Addam quod opportune de eodem Macedone succurrit. Cum in publico Romae lavaretur, notabilis atque etiam, ut exitus docuit, ominosa res accidit. Eques Romanus a servo eius ut transitum daret manu leviter admonitus convertit se nec servum, a quo erat tactus, sed ipsum Macedonem tam graviter palma percussit, ut paene concideret. Ita balineum illi quasi per gradus quosdam primum contumeliae locus, deinde exitii fuit. Vale.

31. (BOOK 3. 16.)

To prove that the fame of noble acts is not determined by the proportion of their worth, Pliny relates instances of Arria's fortitude, affection, and stern resolution, all of which he considers grander than her purpose in death.

C. PLINIUS NEPOTI SUO S.

Adnotasse videor facta dictaque virorum feminarumque alia clariora esse alia maiora. Confirmata est opinio mea hesterno Fanniae sermone. Neptis haec Arriae illius quae marito et solacium mortis et exemplum fuit. Multa referebat aviae suae non minora hoc, sed obscuriora; quae tibi existimo tam mirabilia legenti fore, quam mihi audienti fuerunt. Aegrotabat Caecina Paetus, maritus eius, aegrotabat et filius, uterque mortifere, ut videbatur: filius decessit eximia pulchritudine, pari verecundia, et parentibus non minus ob alia carus, quam quod filius erat. Huic illa ita funus paravit, ita duxit exequias, ut ignoraret maritus: quin immo, quotiens cubiculum eius intraret, vivere filium atque etiam commodiorem esse simulabat ac persaepe interroganti

quid ageret puer respondebat 'bene quievit, libenter cibum sumpsit'. Deinde, cum diu cohibitae lacrimae vincerent prorumperentque, egrediebatur: tunc se dolori dabat: satiata siccis oculis composito vultu redibat, tamquam orbitatem foris reliquisset. Praeclarum quidem illud eiusdem, ferrum stringere, perfodere pectus, extrahere pugionem, porrigere marito, addere vocem immortalem ac paene divinam 'Paete, non dolet.' Sed tamen ista facienti, ista dicenti gloria et aeternitas ante oculos erant: quo maius est sine praemio aeternitatis, sine praemio gloriae abdere lacrimas, operire luctum, amissoque filio matrem adhuc agere. Scribonianus arma in Illyrico contra Claudium moverat: fuerat Paetus in partibus et occiso Scriboniano Romam trahebatur. Erat ascensurus navem: Arria milites orabat ut simul inponeretur. 'Nempe enim' inquit 'daturi estis consulari viro servulos aliquos, quorum e manu cibum capiat, a quibus vestiatur, a quibus calcietur: omnia sola praestabo.' Non impetravit: conduxit piscatoriam naviculam ingensque navigium minimo secuta est. Eadem apud Claudium uxori Scriboniani, cum illa profiteretur indicium, 'ego' inquit 'te audiam, cuius in gremio Scribonianus occisus est, et vivis?' ex quo manifestum est ei consilium pulcherrimae mortis non subitum fuisse. Quin etiam, cum Thrasea, gener eius, deprecaretur ne mori pergeret interque alia dixisset 'vis ergo filiam tuam, si mihi pereundum fuerit, mori mecum?' respondit 'si tam diu tantaque concordia vixerit tecum, quam ego cum Paeto, volo.' Auxerat hoc responso curam suorum, attentius custodiebatur: sensit et 'nihil agitis' inquit: 'potestis enim efficere ut male moriar, ut non moriar non potestis.' Dum haec dicit, exiluit cathedra adversoque parieti caput ingenti impetu impegit et corruit. Focilata 'dixeram' inquit 'vobis inventuram me quamlibet duram ad mortem viam, si vos facilem negassetis.' Videnturne haec tibi maiora illo 'Paete, non

dolet,' ad quod per haec perventum est? cum interim illud quidem ingens fama, haec nulla circumfert. Unde colligitur quod initio dixi, alia esse clariora alia maiora. Vale.

32. (BOOK 3. 18.)

Pliny is delighted with the favourable reception given to his public recitation of the Panegyric on Trajan, at first delivered by him in the senate, and since then enlarged and published.

C. PLINIUS CURIO SEVERO SUO S.

Officium consulatus iniunxit mihi ut rei publicae nomine principi gratias agerem. Quod ego in senatu cum ad rationem et loci et temporis ex more fecissem, bono civi convenientissimum credidi eadem illa spatiosius et uberius volumine amplecti, primum ut imperatori nostro virtutes suae veris laudibus commendarentur; deinde ut futuri principes non quasi a magistro, sed tamen sub exemplo praemonerentur, qua potissimum via possent ad eandem gloriam niti. Nam praecipere qualis esse debeat princeps pulchrum quidem, sed onerosum ac prope superbum est; laudare vero optimum principem ac per hoc posteris velut e specula lumen quod sequantur ostendere idem utilitatis habet, adrogantiae nihil. Cepi autem non mediocrem voluptatem, quod, hunc librum cum amicis recitare voluissem, non per codicillos, non per libellos, sed 'si commodum' et 'si valde vacaret' admoniti (numquam porro aut valde vacat Romae aut commodum est audire recitantem), foedissimis insuper tempestatibus, per biduum convenerunt, cumque modestia mea finem recitationi facere voluisset, ut adicerem tertium diem exegerunt. Mihi hunc honorem habitum putem, an studiis? Studiis malo, quae prope extincta refoventur. At cui materiae hanc sedulitatem praestiterunt? Nempe quam in senatu quoque, ubi perpeti necesse erat, gravari tamen

vel puncto temporis solebamus, eandem nunc et qui recitare et qui audire triduo velint inveniuntur, non quia eloquentius quam prius, sed quia liberius ideoque etiam libentius scribitur. Accedet ergo hoc quoque laudibus principis nostri, quod res antea tam invisa quam falsa nunc ut vera ita amabilis facta est. Sed ego cum studium audientium tum iudicium mire probavi: animadverti enim severissima quaeque vel maxime satisfacere. Memini quidem me non multis recitasse quod omnibus scripsi, nihilo minus tamen, tamquam sit eadem omnium futura sententia, hac severitate aurium laetor, ac sicut olim theatra male musicos canere docuerunt, ita nunc in spem adducor posse fieri ut eadem theatra bene canere musicos doceant. Omnes enim qui placendi causa scribunt qualia placere viderint scribent. Ac mihi quidem confido in hoc genere materiae laetioris stili constare rationem, cum ea potius quae pressius et adstrictius quam illa quae hilarius et quasi exultantius scripsi possint videri arcessita et inducta: non ideo tamen segnius precor ut quandoque veniat dies (utinamque iam venerit!), quo austeris illis severisque dulcia haec blandaque vel iusta possessione decedant. Habes acta mea tridui; quibus cognitis volui tantum te voluptatis absentem et studiorum nomine et meo capere, quantum praesens percipere potuisses. Vale.

33. (BOOK 3. 19.)

Pliny asks for advice in regard to the purchase of an estate which runs into his property. He describes the advantages and disadvantages of possessing it, among the latter the miserable condition of the cultivators.

C. PLINIUS CALVISIO RUFO SUO S.

Adsumo te in consilium rei familiaris, ut soleo. Praedia agris meis vicina atque etiam inserta venalia sunt. In his me multa sollicitant, aliqua nec minora deterrent. Sollicitat

primum ipsa pulchritudo iungendi, deinde quod non minus utile quam voluptuosum posse utraque eadem opera, eodem viatico invisere, sub eodem procuratore ac paene isdem actoribus habere, unam villam colere et ornare, alteram tantum tueri. Inest huic computationi sumptus supellectilis, sumptus atriensium, topiariorum, fabrorum atque etiam venatorii instrumenti; quae plurimum refert unum in locum conferas, an in diversa dispergas. Contra vereor ne sit incautum rem tam magnam isdem tempestatibus, isdem casibus subdere: tutius videtur incerta fortunae possessionum varietatibus experiri. Habet etiam multum iucunditatis soli caelique mutatio ipsaque illa peregrinatio inter sua. Iam quod deliberationis nostrae caput est, agri sunt fertiles pingues aquosi, constant campis vineis silvis, quae materiam et ex ea reditum sicut modicum ita statum praestant. Sed haec felicitas terrae inbecillis cultoribus fatigatur. Nam possessor prior saepius vendidit pignora, et dum reliqua colonorum minuit ad tempus, vires in posterum exhausit, quarum defectione rursus reliqua creverunt. Sunt ergo instruendi eo pluris, quod frugi mancipiis: nam nec ipse usquam vinctos habeo nec ibi quisquam. Superest ut scias quanti videantur posse emi: sestertio tricies, non quia non aliquando quinquagies fuerint, verum et hac paenuria colonorum et communi temporis iniquitate ut reditus agrorum sic etiam pretium retro abiit. Quaeris an hoc ipsum tricies facile colligere possimus? sum quidem prope totus in praediis, aliquid tamen fenero, nec molestum erit mutuari; accipiam a socru, cuius arca non secus ac mea utor. Proinde hoc te non moveat, si cetera non refragantur, quae velim quam diligentissime examines. Nam cum in omnibus rebus tum in disponendis facultatibus plurimum tibi et usus et providentiae superest. Vale.

34. (BOOK 3. 20.)

Pliny relates with some apprehension the sudden adoption of the ballot by the senate in the election of magistrates, and expresses his gratification at having found something of political interest to write about, even under an imperial regime.

C. PLINIUS MESSIO MAXIMO SUO S.

Meministine te saepe legisse, quantas contentiones excitarit lex tabellaria quantumque ipsi latori vel gloriae vel reprehensionis attulerit? At nunc in senatu sine ulla dissensione hoc idem ut optimum placuit: omnes comitiorum die tabellas postulaverunt. Excesseramus sane manifestis illis apertisque suffragiis licentiam contionum. Non tempus loquendi, non tacendi modestia, non denique sedendi dignitas custodiebatur. Magni undique dissonique clamores, procurrebant omnes cum suis candidatis, multa agmina in medio multique circuli et indecora confusio: adeo desciveramus a consuetudiue parentum, apud quos omnia disposita moderata tranquilla maiestatem loci pudoremque retinebant. Supersunt senes, ex quibus audire soleo hunc ordinem comitiorum: citato nomine candidati silentium summum; dicebat ipse pro se, explicabat vitam suam, testes et laudatores dabat vel eum sub quo militaverat vel eum cui quaestor fuerat vel utrumque, si poterat, addebat quosdam ex suffragatoribus: illi graviter et paucis loquebantur. Plus hoc quam preces proderat. Non numquam candidatus aut natales competitoris aut annos aut etiam mores arguebat. Audiebat senatus gravitate censoria. Ita saepius digni quam gratiosi praevalebant. Quae nunc inmodico favore corrupta ad tacita suffragia quasi ad remedium decucurrerunt; quod interim plane remedium fuit: erat enim novum et subitum. Sed vereor ne procedente tempore ex ipso remedio vitia nascantur. Est enim periculum ne tacitis suffragiis inpudentia inrepat. Nam quoto cuique

eadem honestatis cura secreto quae palam? Multi famam, conscientiam pauci verentur. Sed nimis cito de futuris: interim beneficio tabellarum habebimus magistratus qui maxime fieri debuerunt. Nam ut in reciperatoriis iudiciis sic nos in his comitiis quasi repente adprehensi sinceri iudices fuimus. Haec tibi scripsi, primum ut aliquid novi scriberem, deinde ut non numquam de re publica loquerer, cuius materiae nobis quanto rarior quam veteribus occasio tanto minus omittenda est. Et hercule quousque illa vulgaria 'quid agis? ecquid commode vales?' Habeant nostrae quoque litterae aliquid non humile nec sordidum nec privatis rebus inclusum. Sunt quidem cuncta sub unius arbitrio, qui pro utilitate communi solus omnium curas laboresque suscepit; quidam tamen salubri temperamento ad nos quoque velut rivi ex illo benignissimo fonte decurrunt, quos et haurire ipsi et absentibus amicis quasi ministrare epistulis possumus. Vale.

35. (BOOK 3. 21.)

Pliny regrets the death of Martial the poet; and mentions that he had made Martial a present before he left Italy, in return for an epigram, which he subjoins.

C. PLINIUS CORNELIO PRISCO SUO S.

Audio Valerium Martialem decessisse et moleste fero. Erat homo ingeniosus acutus acer, et qui plurimum in scribendo et salis haberet et fellis nec candoris minus. Prosecutus eram viatico secedentem: dederam hoc amicitiae, dederam etiam versiculis quos de me composuit. Fuit moris antiqui eos qui vel singulorum laudes vel urbium scripserant aut honoribus aut pecunia ornare; nostris vero temporibus ut alia speciosa et egregia ita hoc in primis exolevit. Nam postquam desiimus facere laudanda, laudari quoque ineptum putamus. Quaeris qui

sint versiculi quibus gratiam rettuli. Remitterem te ad ipsum volumen, nisi quosdam tenerem: tu, si placuerint hi, ceteros in libro requires. Adloquitur Musam, mandat ut domum meam Esquiliis quaerat, adeat reverenter:

Sed ne tempore non tuo disertam
Pulses ebria ianuam videto:
Totos dat tetricae dies Minervae,
Dum centum studet auribus virorum
Hoc quod saecula posterique possint
Arpinis quoque comparare chartis.
Seras tutior ibis ad lucernas:
Haec hora est tua, cum furit Lyaeus,
Cum regnat rosa, cum madent capilli:
Tunc me vel rigidi legant Catones.

Meritone eum qui haec de me scripsit et tunc dimisi amicissime et nunc ut amicissimum defunctum esse doleo? Dedit enim mihi quantum maximum potuit, daturus amplius, si potuisset. Tametsi quid homini potest dari maius quam gloria et laus et aeternitas? At non erunt aeterna quae scripsit: non erunt fortasse, ille tamen scripsit tamquam essent futura. Vale.

36. (BOOK 4. 2.)

Regulus has lost his son, and Pliny describes the funeral, commenting with great bitterness on the father's character and conduct.

C. PLINIUS ATTIO CLEMENTI SUO S.

Regulus filium amisit, hoc uno malo indignus, quod nescio an malum putet. Erat puer acris ingenii, sed ambigui, qui tamen posset recta sectari, si patrem non referret. Hunc Regulus emancipavit, ut heres matris existeret; mancipatum (ita vulgo ex moribus hominis loquebantur) foeda et insolita parentibus indulgentiae simulatione captabat. Incredibile,

sed Regulum cogita. Amissum tamen luget insane. Habebat puer mannulos multos et iunctos et solutos, habebat canes maiores minoresque, habebat luscinias, psittacos, merulas: omnes Regulus circa rogum trucidavit. Nec dolor erat ille, sed ostentatio doloris. Convenitur ad eum mira celebritate. Cuncti detestantur oderunt, et quasi probent, quasi diligant, cursant frequentant, utque breviter quod sentio enuntiem, in Regulo demerendo Regulum imitantur. Tenet se trans Tiberim in hortis, in quibus latissimum solum porticibus inmensis, ripam statuis suis occupavit, ut est in summa avaritia sumptuosus, in summa infamia gloriosus. Vexat ergo civitatem insaluberrimo tempore, et quod vexat solacium putat. Dicit se velle ducere uxorem: hoc quoque, sicut alia, perverse: audies brevi nuptias lugentis, nuptias senis: quorum alterum immaturum, alterum serum est. Unde hoc augurer quaeris: non quia adfirmat ipse, quo mendacius nihil est, sed quia certum est Regulum esse facturum quidquid fieri non oportet. Vale.

37. (BOOK 4. 7.)

Pliny describes the perverse energy of Regulus now shown in his tasteless commemorations of his son's memory, as it had formerly been in his career as an advocate.

C. PLINIUS CATIO LEPIDO SUO S.

Saepe tibi dico inesse vim Regulo. Mirum est quam efficiat in quod incubuit. Placuit ei lugere filium; luget ut nemo: placuit statuas eius et imagines quam plurimas facere; hoc omnibus officinis agit, illum coloribus, illum cera, illum aere, illum argento, illum auro, ebore, marmore effingit. Ipse vero nuper adhibito ingenti auditorio librum de vita eius recitavit, de vita pueri: recitavit tamen; eundem in exemplaria mille transscriptum per totam Italiam provinciasque dimisit: scripsit publice ut a decurionibus eligeretur

vocalissimus aliquis ex ipsis, qui legeret eum populo: factum est. Hanc ille vim, seu quo alio nomine vocanda est intentio quidquid velis obtinendi, si ad potiora vertisset, quantum boni efficere potuisset! Quamquam minor vis bonis quam malis inest, ac sicut *ἀμαθία μὲν θράσος, λογισμὸς δὲ ὄκνον φέρει*, ita recta ingenia debilitat verecundia, perversa confirmat audacia. Exemplo est Regulus. Inbecillum latus, os confusum, haesitans lingua, tardissima inventio, memoria nulla, nihil denique praeter ingenium insanum; et tamen eo impudentia ipsoque illo furore pervenit, ut orator habeatur. Itaque Herennius Senecio mirifice Catonis illud de oratore in hunc e contrario vertit, 'orator est vir malus dicendi imperitus.' Non mehercule Cato ipse tam bene verum oratorem, quam hic Regulum expressit. Habesne quo tali epistulae parem gratiam referas? Habes, si scripseris, num aliquis in municipio vestro ex sodalibus meis, num etiam ipse tu hunc luctuosum Reguli librum ut circulator in foro legeris, *ἐπάρας* scilicet, ut ait Demosthenes, *τὴν φωνὴν καὶ γεγηθὼς καὶ λαρυγγίζων*. Est enim tam ineptus, ut risum magis possit exprimere quam gemitum: credas non de puero scriptum, sed a puero. Vale.

38. (BOOK 4. 10.)

As a man of honour Pliny cannot hesitate to give Modestus his liberty and his legacy, though Sabina's wish to that effect is not expressed in terms of legal force.

C. PLINIUS STATIO SABINO SUO S.

Scribis mihi Sabinam, quae nos reliquit heredes, Modestum servum suum nusquam liberum esse iussisse, eidem tamen sic adscripsisse legatum, 'Modesto, quem liberum esse iussi.' Quaeris quid sentiam. Contuli cum peritis iuris: convenit inter omnes nec libertatem deberi, quia non sit data, nec legatum, quia servo suo dederit. Sed mihi

manifestus error videtur, ideoque puto nobis, quasi scripserit Sabina, faciendum quod ipsa scripsisse se credidit. Confido accessurum te sententiae meae, cum religiosissime soleas custodire defunctorum voluntatem, quam bonis heredibus intellexisse pro iure est. Neque enim minus apud nos honestas quam apud alios necessitas valet. Moretur ergo in libertate sinentibus nobis, fruatur legato, quasi omnia diligentissime caverit. Cavit enim quae heredes bene elegit. Vale.

39. (BOOK 4. 13.)

Pliny is promoting the establishment of a school at Comum; and writes to ask Tacitus to look out for persons willing and able to undertake the care of it, from among whom the parents of the children may choose a master.

C. PLINIUS TACITO SUO S.

Salvum in urbem venisse gaudeo. Venisti autem, siquando alias, nunc maxime mihi desideratus. Ipse pauculis adhuc diebus in Tusculano commorabor, ut opusculum quod est in manibus absolvam. Vereor enim ne, si hanc intentionem iam in fine intermisero, aegre resumam. Interim ne quid festinationi meae pereat, quod sum praesens petiturus hac quasi praecursoria epistula rogo. Sed prius accipe causas rogandi. Proxime cum in patria mea fui, venit ad me salutandum municipis mei filius praetextatus. Huic ego 'studes?' inquam. Respondit 'etiam.' 'Ubi?' 'Mediolani.' 'Cur non hic?' et pater eius (erat enim una atque etiam ipse adduxerat puerum), 'quia nullos hic praeceptores habemus.' 'Quare nullos? nam vehementer intererat vestra, qui patres estis,' et opportune conplures patres audiebant, 'liberos vestros hic potissimum discere. Ubi enim aut iucundius morarentur, quam in patria, aut pudicius continerentur, quam sub oculis parentum, aut minore sumptu, quam domi? Quantulum est ergo collata pecunia

conducere praeceptores, quodque nunc in habitationes, in viatica, in ea quae peregre emuntur (omnia autem peregre emuntur) inpenditis adicere mercedibus? Atque adeo ego, qui nondum liberos habeo, paratus sum pro re publica nostra, quasi pro filia vel parente, tertiam partem eius quod conferre vobis placebit dare. Totum etiam pollicerer, nisi timerem ne hoc munus meum quandoque ambitu corrumperetur, ut accidere multis in locis video, in quibus praeceptores publice conducuntur. Huic vitio occurri uno remedio potest, si parentibus solis ius conducendi relinquatur isdemque religio recte iudicandi necessitate collationis addatur. Nam qui fortasse de alieno neglegentes, certe de suo diligentes erunt dabuntque operam ne a me pecuniam [non] nisi dignus accipiat, si accepturus et ab ipsis erit. Proinde consentite, conspirate maioremque animum ex meo sumite, qui cupio esse quam plurimum quod debeam conferre. Nihil honestius praestare liberis vestris, nihil gratius patriae potestis. Educentur hic qui hic nascuntur statimque ab infantia natale solum amare frequentare consuescant. Atque utinam tam claros praeceptores inducatis, ut finitimis oppidis studia hinc petantur, utque nunc liberi vestri aliena in loca, ita mox alieni in hunc locum confluant!' Haec putavi altius et quasi a fonte repetenda, quo magis scires, quam gratum mihi foret, si susciperes quod iniungo. Iniungo autem et pro rei magnitudine rogo ut ex copia studiosorum, quae ad te ex admiratione ingenii tui convenit, circumspicias praeceptores, quos sollicitare possimus, sub ea tamen condicione, ne cui fidem meam obstringam. Omnia enim libera parentibus servo: illi iudicent, illi eligant; ego mihi curam tantum et inpendium vindico. Proinde siquis fuerit repertus, qui ingenio suo fidat, eat illuc ea lege, ut hinc nihil aliud certum quam fiduciam suam ferat. Vale.

40. (BOOK 4. 17.)

Pliny willingly undertakes the case of Corellius' daughter, though in doing so he will have to act against another friend. That objection however vanishes when he remembers his relations with Corellius, and how the latter commended him to his daughter as her protector.

C. PLINIUS ASINIO GALLO SUO S.

Et admones et rogas ut suscipiam causam Corelliae absentis contra C. Caecilium, consulem designatum. Quod admones, gratias ago; quod rogas, queror. Admoneri enim debeo, ut sciam, rogari non debeo, ut faciam quod mihi non facere turpissimum est. An ego tueri Corelli filiam dubitem? Est quidem mihi cum isto contra quem me advocas non plane familiaris, sed tamen amicitia. Accedit huc dignitas hominis atque hic ipse cui destinatus est honor; cuius nobis hoc maior agenda reverentia est, quod iam illo functi sumus. Naturale est enim ut ea quae quis adeptus est ipse quam amplissima existimari velit. Sed mihi cogitanti adfuturum me Corelli filiae omnia ista frigida et inania videntur. Obversatur oculis ille vir, quo neminem aetas nostra graviorem sanctiorem subtiliorem tulit. Quem ego cum ex admiratione diligere coepissem, quod evenire contra solet, magis admiratus sum, postquam penitus inspexi. Inspexi enim penitus: nihil a me ille secretum, non ioculare, non serium, non triste, non laetum. Adulescentulus eram, et iam mihi ab illo honor atque etiam, audebo dicere, reverentia ut aequali habebatur. Ille meus in petendis honoribus suffragator et testis, ille in inchoandis deductor et comes, ille in gerendis consiliator et rector, ille denique in omnibus officiis nostris, quamquam et inbecillus et senior, quasi iuvenis et validus conspiciebatur. Quantum ille famae meae domi, in publico, quantum etiam apud principem adstruxit! Nam cum forte de bonis iuvenibus apud Nervam imperatorem sermo incidisset et plerique me laudibus ferrent,

paulisper se intra silentium tenuit, quod illi plurimum auctoritatis addebat; deinde gravitate quam noras 'necesse est' inquit 'parcius laudem Secundum, quia nihil nisi ex consilio meo facit.' Qua voce tribuit mihi quantum petere voto inmodicum erat, nihil me facere non sapientissime, cum omnia ex consilio sapientissimi viri facerem. Quin etiam moriens filiae suae (ipsa solet praedicare), 'multos quidem amicos tibi ut longiore vita paravi, praecipuos tamen Secundum et Cornutum.' Quod cum recordor, 'intellego mihi laborandum ne qua parte videar hanc de me fiduciam providentissimi viri destituisse.' Quare ego vero Corelliae adero promptissime nec subire offensas recusabo: quamquam non solum veniam me verum etiam laudem apud istum ipsum, a quo, ut ais, nova lis fortasse ut feminae intenditur, arbitror consecuturum, si haec eadem in actione, latius scilicet et uberius, quam epistularum angustiae sinunt, vel in excusationem vel etiam commendationem meam dixero. Vale.

41. (BOOK 4. 19.)

Pliny describes to Hispulla, aunt of his wife Calpurnia, the interest of the latter in all his pursuits, his consequent affection for her, and the gratitude which he feels to Hispulla as the cause of their mutual happiness.

C. PLINIUS CALPURNIAE HISPULLAE SUAE S.

Cum sis pietatis exemplum fratremque optimum et amantissimum tui pari caritate dilexeris filiamque eius ut tuam diligas nec tantum amitae ei adfectum verum etiam patris amissi repraesentes, non dubito maximo tibi gaudio fore, cum cognoveris dignam patre, dignam te, dignam avo evadere. Summum est acumen, summa frugalitas: amat me, quod castitatis indicium est. Accedit his studium litterarum, quod ex mei caritate concepit: meos libellos habet, lectitat. ediscit etiam. Qua illa sollicitudine, cum videor acturus,

quanto, cum egi, gaudio adficitur! Disponit qui nuntient sibi, quem adsensum, quos clamores excitarim, quem eventum iudicii tulerim. Eadem, siquando recito, in proximo discreta velo sedet laudesque nostras avidissimis auribus excipit. Versus quidem meos cantat etiam formatque cithara, non artifice aliquo docente, sed amore, qui magister est optimus. His ex causis in spem certissimam adducor perpetuam nobis maioremque in dies futuram esse concordiam. Non enim aetatem meam aut corpus, quae paulatim occidunt ac senescunt, sed gloriam diligit. Nec aliud decet tuis manibus educatam, tuis praeceptis institutam, quae nihil in contubernio tuo viderit nisi sanctum honestumque, quae denique amare me ex tua praedicatione consueverit. Nam cum matrem meam parentis loco verereris, me a pueritia statim formare, laudare talemque, qualis nunc uxori meae videor, ominari solebas. Certatim ergo tibi gratias agimus, ego quod illam mihi, illa quod me sibi dederis, quasi invicem elegeris. Vale.

42. (BOOK 4. 22.)

A bold remark by Junius Mauricus in Trajan's council on the subject of the games at Vienne, leads Pliny to relate a bolder speech of the same Mauricus at Nerva's table.

C. PLINIUS SEMPRONIO RUFO SUO S.

Interfui principis optimi cognitioni in consilium adsumptus. Gymnicus agon apud Viennenses ex cuiusdam testamento celebrabatur: hunc Trebonius Rufinus, vir egregius nobisque amicus, in duumviratu tollendum abolendumque curavit: negabatur ex auctoritate publica fecisse. Egit ipse causam non minus feliciter quam diserte. Commendabat actionem quod tamquam homo Romanus et bonus civis in negotio suo mature et graviter loquebatur. Cum sententiae perrogarentur, dixit Iunius Mauricus, quo viro nihil firmius, nihil verius, non

esse restituendum Viennensibus agona: adiecit 'vellem etiam Romae tolli posset.' Constanter, inquis, et fortiter. Quidni? Sed hoc a Maurico novum non est. Idem apud imperatorem Nervam non minus fortiter. Cenabat Nerva cum paucis: Veiento proximus atque etiam in sinu recumbebat: dixi omnia, cum hominem nominavi. Incidit sermo de Catullo Messalino, qui luminibus orbatus ingenio saevo mala caecitatis addiderat: non verebatur, non erubescebat, non miserebatur; quo saepius a Domitiano non secus ac tela, quae et ipsa caeca et inprovida feruntur, in optimum quemque contorquebatur. De huius nequitia sanguinariisque sententiis in commune omnes super cenam loquebantur, cum ipse imperator 'quid putamus passurum fuisse, si viveret?' et Mauricus 'nobiscum cenaret.' Longius abii, libens tamen. Placuit agona tolli, qui mores Viennensium infecerat, ut noster hic omnium. Nam Viennensium vitia intra ipsos residunt, nostra late vagantur, utque in corporibus sic in imperio gravissimus est morbus qui a capite diffunditur. Vale.

43. (BOOK 4. 25.)

Pliny's fears about the use of the ballot in the Senate have been justified by the vulgar folly with which it has been abused.

C. PLINIUS MESSIO MAXIMO SUO S.

Scripseram tibi verendum esse ne ex tacitis suffragiis vitium aliquod existeret. Factum est. Proximis comitiis in quibusdam tabellis multa iocularia atque etiam foeda dictu, in una vero pro candidatorum nominibus suffragatorum nomina inventa sunt. Excanduit senatus magnoque clamore ei qui scripsisset iratum principem est comprecatus. Ille tamen fefellit et latuit, fortasse etiam inter indignantes fuit. Quid hunc putamus domi facere, qui in tanta re tam serio tempore tam scurriliter ludat, qui denique omnino in senatu

dicax et urbanus et bellus est? Tantum licentiae pravis ingeniis adicit illa fiducia, 'quis enim sciet?' Poposcit tabellam, stilum accepit, demisit caput, neminem veretur, se contemnit. Inde ista ludibria scaena et pulpito digna. Quo te vertas? Quae remedia conquiras? Ubique vitia remediis fortiora. Ἀλλὰ ταῦτα τῷ ὑπὲρ ἡμᾶς μελήσει, cui multum cotidie vigiliarum, multum laboris adicit haec nostra iners et tamen effrenata petulantia. Vale.

44. (BOOK 5. 1.)

Pliny explains why the legacy just left him by Curianus had given him so much pleasure; namely, because it was a recompense to him for having formerly acted with equity and generosity towards Curianus, when the latter had been disinherited by his mother Pomponia in favour of Pliny, Severus and others.

C. PLINIUS ANNIO SEVERO SUO S.

Legatum mihi obvenit modicum, sed amplissimo gratius. Cur amplissimo gratius? Pomponia Galla exheredato filio Asudio Curiano heredem reliquerat me, dederat coheredes Sertorium Severum, praetorium virum, aliosque splendidos equites Romanos. Curianus orabat ut sibi donarem portionem meam seque praeiudicio iuvarem; eandem tacita conventione salvam mihi pollicebatur. Respondebam non convenire moribus meis aliud palam, aliud agere secreto, praeterea non esse satis honestum donare et locupleti et orbo, in summa non profuturum ei, si donassem, profuturum, si cessissem, esse autem me paratum cedere, si inique exheredatum mihi liqueret. Ad hoc ille 'rogo cognoscas.' Cunctatus paulum 'faciam' inquam: 'neque enim video cur ipse me minorem putem, quam tibi videor. Sed iam nunc memento non defuturam mihi constantiam, si ita fides duxerit, secundum matrem tuam pronuntiandi.' 'Ut voles' ait: 'voles enim quod aequissimum.' Adhibui

in consilium duos quos tunc civitas nostra spectatissimos habuit, Corellium et Frontinum. His circumdatus in cubiculo meo sedi: dixit Curianus quae pro se putabat: respondi paucis ego (neque enim aderat alius qui defunctae pudorem tueretur): deinde secessi et ex consilii sententia 'videtur' inquam, 'Curiane, mater tua iustas habuisse causas irascendi tibi.' Post hoc ille cum ceteris subscripsit centumvirale iudicium, non subscripsit mecum. Adpetebat iudicii dies. Coheredes mei conponere et transigere cupiebant, non diffidentia causae, sed metu temporum. Verebantur quod videbant multis accidisse, ne ex centumvirali iudicio capitis rei exirent. Et erant quidam in illis quibus obici et Gratillae amicitia et Rustici posset. Rogant me ut cum Curiano loquar. Convenimus in aedem Concordiae. Ibi ego 'si mater' inquam 'te ex parte quarta scripsisset heredem, num queri posses? Quid si heredem quidem instituisset ex asse, sed legatis ita exhausisset, ut non amplius apud te quam quarta remaneret? Igitur sufficere tibi debet, si exheredatus a matre quartam partem ab heredibus eius accipias, quam tamen ego augebo. Scis te non subscripsisse mecum et iam biennium transisse omniaque me usu cepisse. Sed ut te coheredes mei tractabiliorem experiantur, utque tibi nihil abstulerit reverentia mei, offero pro mea parte tantundem.' Tuli fructum non conscientiae modo verum etiam famae. Ille ergo Curianus legatum mihi reliquit et factum meum, nisi forte blandior mihi, antiquum notabili honore signavit. Haec tibi scripsi, quia de omnibus quae me vel delectant vel angunt non aliter tecum quam mecum loquî soleo; deinde quod durum existimabam te amantissimum mei fraudare voluptate quam ipse capiebam. Neque enim sum tam sapiens, ut nihil mea intersit, an iis quae honeste fecisse me credo testificatio quaedam et quasi praemium accedat. Vale.

45. (BOOK 5. 2.)

Just now Pliny can send Calpurnius nothing but thanks in return for his present.

C. PLINIUS CALPURNIO FLACCO SUO S.

Accepi pulcherrimos turdos, cum quibus parem calculum ponere nec urbis copiis ex Laurentino nec maris tam turbidis tempestatibus possum. Recipies ergo epistulas steriles et simpliciter ingratas ac ne illam quidem sollertiam Diomedis in permutando munere imitantes. Sed quae facilitas tua, hoc magis dabis veniam, quod se non mereri fatentur. Vale.

46. (BOOK 5. 5.)

Pliny is sorry to lose his friend Fannius,—sorry that he died before he could alter his will, but still more sorry that he has left unfinished his history of Nero's victims, a circumstance which had been intimated to Fannius himself by a strange vision.

C. PLINIUS NONIO MAXIMO SUO S.

Nuntiatum mihi est C. Fannium decessisse, qui nuntius me gravi dolore confudit, primum quod amavi hominem elegantem disertum, deinde quod iudicio eius uti solebam. Erat enim acutus natura, usu exercitatus, veritate promptissimus. Angit me super ista casus ipsius: decessit veteri testamento, omisit quos maxime diligebat, prosecutus est quibus offensior erat. Sed hoc utcumque tolerabile, gravius illud, pulcherrimum opus inperfectum reliquit. Quamvis enim agendis causis distringeretur, scribebat tamen exitus occisorum aut relegatorum a Nerone et iam tres libros absolverat, subtiles et diligentes et latinos atque inter sermonem historiamque medios, ac tanto magis reliquos perficere cupiebat, quanto frequentius hi lectitabantur. Mihi autem videtur acerba semper et inmatura mors eorum qui immortale aliquid parant. Nam qui volupta-

tibus dediti quasi in diem vivunt vivendi causas cotidie finiunt; qui vero posteros cogitant et memoriam sui operibus extendunt, his nulla mors non repentina est, ut quae semper inchoatum aliquid abrumpat. Gaius quidem Fannius quod accidit multo ante praesensit. Visus est sibi per nocturnam quietem iacere in lectulo suo compositus in habitum studentis, habere ante se scrinium (ita solebat): mox imaginatus est venisse Neronem, in toro resedisse, prompsisse primum librum quem de sceleribus eius ediderat eumque ad extremum revolvisse, idem in secundo ac tertio fecisse, tunc abisse. Expavit et sic interpretatus est, tamquam idem sibi futurus esset scribendi finis, qui fuisset illi legendi, et fuit idem. Quod me recordantem miseratio subit, quantum vigiliarum, quantum laboris exhauserit frustra. Occursant animo mea mortalitas, mea scripta. Nec dubito te quoque eadem cogitatione terreri pro istis quae inter manus habes. Proinde dum suppetit vita, enitamur ut mors quam paucissima quae abolere possit inveniat. Vale.

47. (BOOK 5. 10.)

Pliny begs Suetonius no longer to delay the publication of his work, for which he says he has made himself responsible by some verses he has written.

C. PLINIUS SUETONIO TRANQUILLO SUO S.

Libera tandem hendecasyllaborum meorum fidem, qui scripta tua communibus amicis spoponderunt. Appellantur cotidie et flagitantur, ac iam periculum est ne cogantur ad exhibendum formulam accipere. Sum et ipse in edendo haesitator, tu tamen meam quoque cunctationem tarditatemque vicisti. Proinde aut rumpe iam moras aut cave ne eosdem istos libellos, quos tibi hendecasyllabi nostri blanditiis elicere non possunt, convicio scazontes extorqueant.

Perfectum opus absolutumque est nec iam splendescit lima, sed atteritur. Patere me videre titulum tuum, patere audire describi legi venire volumina Tranquilli mei. Aequum est nos in amore tam mutuo eandem percipere ex te voluptatem, qua tu perfrueris ex nobis. Vale.

48. (BOOK 5. 14.)

While Pliny was enjoying country retirement with his wife's family, the news has reached him of Cornutus' appointment as guardian of the Aemilian way, an event which gives him sincere satisfaction.

C. PLINIUS PONTIO SUO S.

Secesseram in municipium, cum mihi nuntiatum est Cornutum Tertullum accepisse Aemiliae viae curam. Exprimere non possum, quanto sim gaudio adfectus et ipsius et meo nomine; ipsius, quod, sit licet, sicut est, ab omni ambitione longe remotus, debet tamen ei iucundus honor esse ultro datus; meo, quod aliquanto magis me delectat mandatum mihi officium, postquam par Cornuto datum video. Neque enim augeri dignitate quam aequari bonis gratius. Cornuto autem quid melius? quid sanctius? quid in omni genere laudis ad exemplar antiquitatis expressius? Quod mihi cognitum est non fama, qua alioqui optima et meritissima fruitur, sed longis magnisque experimentis. Una diligimus, una dileximus omnes fere quos aetas nostra in utroque sexu aemulandos tulit; quae societas amicitiarum artissima nos familiaritate coniunxit. Accessit vinculum necessitudinis publicae. Idem enim mihi, ut scis, collega quasi voto petitus in praefectura aerarii fuit, fuit et in consulatu. Tum ego qui vir et quantus esset altissime inspexi, cum sequerer ut magistrum, ut parentem vererer; quod non tam aetatis maturitate quam vitae merebatur. His ex causis ut illi sic mihi gratulor, nec privatim magis quam publice, quod tandem homines non ad pericula, ut

prius, verum ad honores virtute perveniunt. In infinitum epistulam extendam, si gaudio meo indulgeam. Praevertor ad ea quae me agentem hic nuntius deprehendit. Eram cum prosocero meo, eram cum amita uxoris, eram cum amicis diu desideratis, circumibam agellos, audiebam multum rusticarum querellarum, rationes legebam invitus et cursim (aliis enim chartis, aliis sum litteris initiatus), coeperam etiam itineri me praeparare. Nam includor angustiis commeatus eoque ipso, quod delegatum Cornuto audio officium, mei admoneor. Cupio te quoque sub idem tempus Campania tua remittat, ne quis, cum in urbem rediero, contubernio nostro dies pereat. Vale.

49. (BOOK 5. 16.)

Pliny expresses with real feeling his grief for the death on the eve of marriage of Fundanius' charming daughter.

C. PLINIUS MARCELLINO SUO S.

Tristissimus haec tibi scribo Fundani nostri filia minore defuncta. Qua puella nihil umquam festivius, amabilius nec modo longiore vita, sed prope immortalitate dignius vidi. Nondum annos quattuordecim impleverat, et iam illi anilis prudentia, matronalis gravitas erat, et tamen suavitas puellaris cum virginali verecundia. Ut illa patris cervicibus inhaerebat! Ut nos amicos paternos et amanter et modeste complectebatur! Ut nutrices, ut paedagogos, ut praeceptores pro suo quemque officio diligebat! Quam studiose, quam intellegenter lectitabat! Ut parce custoditeque ludebat! Qua illa temperantia, qua patientia, qua etiam constantia novissimam valetudinem tulit! Medicis obsequebatur, sororem, patrem adhortabatur ipsamque se destitutam corporis viribus vigore animi sustinebat. Duravit hic illi usque ad extremum nec aut spatio valetudinis aut metu mortis infractus est, quo plures gravioresque nobis causas relinqueret et desiderii et

doloris. O triste plane acerbumque funus! O morte ipsa mortis tempus indignius! Iam destinata erat egregio iuveni, iam electus nuptiarum dies, iam nos vocati. Quod gaudium quo maerore mutatum est! Non possum exprimere verbis, quantum animo vulnus acceperim, cum audivi Fundanum ipsum, ut multa luctuosa dolor invenit, praecipientem, quod in vestes margarita gemmas fuerat erogaturus, hoc in tus et unguenta et odores inpenderetur. Est quidem ille eruditus et sapiens, ut qui se ab ineunte aetate altioribus studiis artibusque dediderit: sed nunc omnia quae audiit saepe, quae dixit aspernatur expulsisque virtutibus aliis pietatis est totus. Ignosces, laudabis etiam, si cogitaveris quid amiserit. Amisit enim filiam quae non minus mores eius quam os voltumque referebat totumque patrem mira similitudine exscripserat. Proinde siquas ad eum de dolore tam iusto litteras mittes, memento adhibere solacium, non quasi castigatorium et nimis forte, sed molle et humanum. Quod ut facilius admittat multum faciet medii temporis spatium. Ut enim crudum adhuc vulnus medentium manus reformidat, deinde patitur atque ultro requirit, sic recens animi dolor consolationes reicit ac refugit, mox desiderat et clementer admotis adquiescit. Vale.

50. (BOOK 5. 19.)

Pliny asks Paulinus to allow the use of his villa at Forum Julii to his freedman Zosimus, who is going there for his health.

C. PLINIUS PAULINO SUO S.

Video quam molliter tuos habeas, quo simplicius tibi confitebor qua indulgentia meos tractem. Est mihi semper in animo et Homericum illud πατὴρ δ' ὡς ἤπιος ἦεν et hoc nostrum 'pater familiae.' Quod si essem natura asperior et durior, frangeret me tamen infirmitas liberti mei Zosimi, cui tanto maior humanitas exhibenda est, quanto nunc illa magis eget. Homo probus officiosus litteratus; et ars quidem eius

et quasi inscriptio comoedus, in qua plurimum facit. Nam pronuntiat acriter, sapienter, apte, decenter etiam; utitur et cithara perite, ultra quam comoedo necesse est. Idem tam commode orationes et historias et carmina legit, ut hoc solum didicisse videatur. Haec tibi sedulo exposui, quo magis scires quam multa unus mihi et quam iucunda ministeria praestaret. Accedit longa iam caritas hominis, quam ipsa pericula auxerunt. Est enim ita natura comparatum, ut nihil aeque amorem incitet et accendat quam carendi metus, quem ego pro hoc non semel patior. Nam ante aliquot annos, dum intente instanterque pronuntiat, sanguinem reiecit atque ob hoc in Aegyptum missus a me post longam peregrinationem confirmatus rediit nuper; deinde dum per continuos dies nimis imperat voci, veteris infirmitatis tussicula admonitus rursus sanguinem reddidit. Qua ex causa destinavi eum mittere in praedia tua, quae Foro Iuli possides. Audivi enim te saepe referentem esse ibi et aëra salubrem et lac eius modi curationibus accommodatissimum. Rogo ergo scribas tuis ut illi villa, ut domus pateat, offerant etiam sumptibus eius, siquid opus erit; erit autem opus modico. Est enim tam parcus et continens, ut non solum delicias verum etiam necessitates valetudinis frugalitate restringat. Ego proficiscenti tantum viatici dabo, quantum sufficiat eunti in tua. Vale.

51. (BOOK 5. 21.)

Pliny is glad to hear that Saturninus is waiting for his arrival to give a recitation, but is distressed by his report of the dangerous illness of one friend, and the premature death of another.

C. PLINIUS SATURNINO SUO S.

Varie me adfecerunt litterae tuae. Nam partim laeta partim tristia continebant: laeta, quod te in urbe teneri nuntiabant; 'nollem' inquis, sed ego volo: praeterea quod

recitaturum statim ut venissem pollicebantur; ago gratias, quod expector. Triste illud, quod Iulius Valens graviter iacet: quamquam ne hoc quidem triste, si illius utilitatibus aestimetur, cuius interest quam maturissime inexplicabili morbo liberari. Illud plane non triste solum verum etiam luctuosum, quod Iulius Avitus decessit, dum ex quaestura redit, decessit in nave, procul a fratre amantissimo, procul a matre, a sororibus. Nihil ista ad mortuum pertinent, sed pertinuerunt, cum moreretur, pertinent ad hos qui supersunt. Iam quod in flore primo tantae indolis iuvenis extinctus est summa consecuturus, si virtutes eius maturuissent! Quo ille studiorum amore flagrabat! Quantum legit, quantum etiam scripsit! Quae nunc omnia cum ipso sine fructu posteritatis abierunt. Sed quid ego indulgeo dolori? Cui si frenos remittas, nulla materia non maxima est. Finem epistulae faciam: ut facere possim etiam lacrimis, quas epistula expressit! Vale.

52. (BOOK 6. 2.)

Even the loss of Regulus must be regretted as that of a painstaking advocate, and a steady opponent of the modern fashion of hurrying cases through the courts.

C. PLINIUS ARRIANO SUO S.

Soleo non numquam in iudiciis quaerere M. Regulum: nolo enim dicere desiderare. Cur ergo quaero? Habebat studiis honorem, timebat, pallebat, scribebat, quamvis non posset ediscere. Illud ipsum, quod oculum modo dextrum modo sinistrum circumlinebat, dextrum, si a petitore, alterum, si a possessore esset acturus, quod candidum splenium in hoc aut in illud supercilium transferebat, quod semper haruspices consulebat de actionis eventu, a nimia superstitione, sed tamen et a magno studiorum honore veniebat. Iam illa perquam iucunda una dicentibus, quod libera tem-

pora petebat, quod audituros corrogabat. Quid enim iucundius, quam sub alterius invidia quam diu velis et in alieno auditorio quasi deprehensum commode dicere? Sed utcumque se habent ista, bene fecit Regulus quod est mortuus; melius, si ante. Nunc enim sane poterat sine malo publico vivere sub eo principe, sub quo nocere non poterat. Ideo fas est non numquam eum quaerere. Nam postquam obiit ille, increbruit passim et invaluit consuetudo binas vel singulas clepsydras, interdum etiam dimidias, et dandi et petendi. Nam et qui dicunt egisse malunt quam agere et qui audiunt finire quam iudicare. Tanta neglegentia, tanta desidia, tanta denique inreverentia studiorum periculorumque est. An nos sapientiores maioribus nostris, nos legibus ipsis iustiores, quae tot horas, tot dies, tot comperendinationes largiuntur? Hebetes illi et supra modum tardi, nos apertius dicimus, celerius intellegimus, religiosius iudicamus, quia paucioribus clepsydris praecipitamus causas, quam diebus explicari solebant? O Regule, qui ambitione ab omnibus obtinebas quod fidei paucissimi praestant? Equidem quotiens iudico, quod vel saepius facio, quam dico, quantum quis plurimum postulat aquae do. Etenim temerarium existimo divinare, quam spatiosa sit causa inaudita, tempusque negotio finire, cuius modum ignores, praesertim cum primam religioni suae iudex patientiam debeat, quae pars magna iustitiae est. At quaedam supervacua dicuntur. Etiam: sed satius est et haec dici, quam non dici necessaria. Praeterea an sint supervacua, nisi cum audieris, scire non possis. Sed de his melius coram, ut de pluribus vitiis civitatis. Nam tu quoque amore communium soles emendari cupere quae iam corrigere difficile est. Nunc respiciamus domos nostras. Ecquid omnia in tua recte? In mea novi nihil. Mihi autem et gratiora sunt bona, quod perseverant, et leviora incommoda, quod adsuevi. Vale.

53. (BOOK 6. 3.)

Pliny is glad that the farm which he had given to his nurse is now in the hands of a good tenant.

C. PLINIUS VERO SUO S.

Gratias ago, quod agellum quem nutrici meae donaveram colendum suscepisti. Erat, cum donarem, centum milium nummum; postea decrescente reditu etiam pretium minuit, quod nunc te curante reparabit. Tu modo memineris commendari tibi a me non arbores et terram, quamquam haec quoque, sed munusculum meum; quod esse quam fructuosissimum non illius magis interest, quae accepit, quam mea, qui dedi. Vale.

54. (BOOK 6. 4.)

Pliny expresses his affectionate anxiety for his wife, and begs her to relieve it by frequent letters.

C. PLINIUS CALPURNIAE SUAE S.

Numquam sum magis de occupationibus meis questus, quae me non sunt passae aut proficiscentem te valetudinis causa in Campaniam prosequi aut profectam e vestigio subsequi. Nunc enim praecipue simul esse cupiebam, ut oculis meis crederem, quid viribus, quid corpusculo adparares, ecquid denique secessus voluptates regionisque abundantiam inoffensa transmitteres. Equidem etiam fortem te non sine cura desiderarem: est enim suspensum et anxium de eo quem ardentissime diligas interdum nihil scire: nunc vero me cum absentiae tum infirmitatis tuae ratio incerta et varia sollicitudine exterret. Vereor omnia, imaginor omnia, quaeque natura metuentium est, ea maxime mihi quae maxime abominor fingo. Quo inpensius rogo ut timori meo cotidie singulis vel etiam binis epistulis consulas. Ero enim securior, dum lego, statimque timebo, cum legero. Vale.

55. (BOOK 6. 6.)

Pliny begs Fundanus to come to Rome and help him in his support of Julius Naso in his candidature for the quaestorship, a young man whom Pliny values both for his own sake, and his father's.

C. PLINIUS FUNDANO SUO S.

Siquando, nunc praecipue cuperem esse te Romae, et sis rogo. Opus est mihi voti laboris sollicitudinis socio. Petit honores Iulius Naso, petit cum multis, cum bonis, quos ut gloriosum sic est difficile superare. Pendeo ergo et exerceor spe, adficior metu et me consularem esse non sentio: nam rursus mihi videor omnium quae decucurri candidatus. Meretur hanc curam longa mei caritate. Est mihi cum illo non sane paterna amicitia (neque enim esse potuit per meam aetatem); solebat tamen vixdum adulescentulo mihi pater eius cum magna laude monstrari. Erat non studiorum tantum verum etiam studiosorum amantissimus ac prope cotidie ad audiendos, quos tunc ego frequentabam, Quintilianum, Niceten Sacerdotem ventitabat, vir alioqui clarus et gravis et qui prodesse filio memoria sui debeat. Sed multi nunc in senatu quibus ignotus ille, multi quibus notus, sed non nisi viventes reverentur. Quo magis huic omissa gloria patris, in qua magnum ornamentum, gratia infirma, ipsi enitendum, ipsi elaborandum est. Quod quidem semper, quasi provideret hoc tempus, sedulo fecit: paravit amicos, quos paraverat coluit, me certe, ut primum sibi iudicare permisit, ad amorem imitationemque delegit. Dicenti mihi sollicitus adsistit, adsidet recitanti: primis etiam et cum maxime nascentibus opusculis meis interest, nunc solus, ante cum fratre, cuius nuper amissi ego suscipere partes, ego vicem debeo inplere. Doleo enim et illum inmatura morte indignissime raptum et hunc optimi fratris adiumento destitutum solisque amicis relictum. Quibus ex causis exigo ut venias et suffragio meo tuum iungas. Permultum interest

mea te ostentare, tecum circumire. Ea est auctoritas tua, ut putem me efficacius tecum etiam meos amicos rogaturum. Abrumpe, siqua te retinent: hoc tempus meum, hoc fides, hoc etiam dignitas postulat. Suscepi candidatum, et suscepisse me notum est: ego ambio, ego periclitor: in summa, si datur Nasoni quod petit, illius honor; si negatur, mea repulsa est. Vale.

56. (BOOK 6. 7.)

Pliny is glad that his wife finds the same pleasure and comfort in his letters, as he does in hers.

C. PLINIUS CALPURNIAE SUAE S.

Scribis te absentia mea non mediocriter adfici unumque habere solacium, quod pro me libellos meos teneas, saepe etiam in vestigio meo conloces. Gratum est quod nos requiris, gratum quod his fomentis adquiescis: invicem ego epistulas tuas lectito atque identidem in manus quasi novas sumo; sed eo magis ad desiderium tui accendor. Nam cuius litterae tantum habent suavitatis, huius sermonibus quantum dulcedinis inest! Tu tamen quam frequentissime scribe, licet hoc ita me delectet, ut torqueat. Vale.

57. (BOOK 6. 10.)

Pliny visiting the former residence of Verginius is distressed to find that the monument of that illustrious man is still unfinished.

C. PLINIUS ALBINO SUO S.

Cum venissem in socrus meae villam Alsiensem, quae aliquando Rufi Vergini fuit, ipse mihi locus optimi illius et maximi viri desiderium non sine dolore renovavit. Hunc enim incolere secessum atque etiam senectutis suae nidulum vocare consueverat. Quocumque me contulissem, illum animus, illum oculi requirebant. Libuit etiam monimentum

eius videre, et vidisse paenituit. Est enim adhuc inperfectum, nec difficultas operis in causa modici ac potius exigui, sed inertia eius cui cura mandata est. Subit indignatio cum miseratione, post decimum mortis annum reliquias neglectumque cinerem sine titulo, sine nomine iacere, cuius memoria orbem terrarum gloria pervagetur. At ille mandaverat caveratque ut divinum illud et inmortale factum versibus inscriberetur,

Hic situs est Rufus, pulso qui Vindice quondam
Imperium adseruit non sibi sed patriae.

Tam rara in amicitiis fides, tam parata oblivio mortuorum, ut ipsi nobis debeamus etiam conditoria extruere omniaque heredum officia praesumere. Nam cui non est verendum quod videmus accidisse Verginio? Cuius iniuriam ut indigniorem sic etiam notiorem ipsius claritas facit. Vale.

58. (BOOK 6. 15.)

Pliny relates the unfortunate interruption of Paulus' recitation by an audacious jest.

C. PLINIUS ROMANO SUO S.

Mirificae rei non interfuisti: ne ego quidem; sed me recens fabula excepit. Passennus Paulus, splendidus eques Romanus et in primis eruditus, scribit elegos. Gentilicium hoc illi: est enim municeps Properti atque etiam inter maiores suos Propertium numerat. Is cum recitaret, ita coepit dicere, 'Prisce, iubes.' Ad hoc Iavolenus Priscus (aderat enim, ut Paulo amicissimus) 'ego vero non iubeo.' Cogita qui risus hominum, qui ioci. Est omnino Priscus dubiae sanitatis, interest tamen officiis, adhibetur consiliis atque etiam ius civile publice respondet: quo magis quod tunc fecit et ridiculum et notabile fuit. Interim Paulo aliena deliratio aliquantum frigoris attulit. Tam sollicite recitaturis providendum est non solum ut sint ipsi sani, verum etiam ut sanos adhibeant. Vale.

59. (BOOK 6. 16.)

Pliny, at the request of Tacitus, relates how his uncle being in command at Misenum crossed the bay of Naples to assist the sufferers from the eruption of Vesuvius, and expired during the eruption, apparently from the effect of the sulphurous vapours accompanying it.

C. PLINIUS TACITO SUO S.

Petis ut tibi avunculi mei exitum scribam, quo verius tradere posteris possis. Gratias ago: nam video morti eius, si celebretur a te, inmortalem gloriam esse propositam. Quamvis enim pulcherrimarum clade terrarum, ut populi, ut urbes, memorabili casu quasi semper victurus occiderit, quamvis ipse plurima opera et mansura condiderit, multum tamen perpetuitati eius scriptorum tuorum aeternitas addet. Equidem beatos puto quibus deorum munere datum est aut facere scribenda aut scribere legenda, beatissimos vero quibus utrumque. Horum in numero avunculus meus et suis libris et tuis erit. Quo libentius suscipio, deposco etiam quod iniungis. Erat Miseni classemque imperio praesens regebat. Nonum Kal. Septembres hora fere septima mater mea indicat ei apparere nubem inusitata et magnitudine et specie. Usus ille sole, mox frigida, gustaverat iacens studebatque: poscit soleas, ascendit locum ex quo maxime miraculum illud conspici poterat. Nubes, incertum procul intuentibus ex quo monte (Vesuvium fuisse postea cognitum est), oriebatur, cuius similitudinem et formam non alia magis arbor quam pinus expresserit. Nam longissimo velut trunco elata in altum quibusdam ramis diffundebatur, credo, quia recenti spiritu evecta, dein senescente eo destituta aut etiam pondere suo victa in latitudinem vanescebat: candida interdum, interdum sordida et maculosa, prout terram cineremve sustulerat. Magnum propiusque noscendum, ut eruditissimo viro, visum. Iubet liburnicam aptari: mihi, si venire

una vellem, facit copiam: respondi studere me malle, et forte ipse quod scriberem dederat. Egrediebatur domo: accipit codicillos Rectinae Tasci inminenti periculo exteritae (nam villa eius subiacebat, nec ulla nisi navibus fuga): ut se tanto discrimini eriperet orabat. Vertit ille consilium et quod studioso animo inchoaverat obit maximo. Deducit quadriremes, ascendit ipse non Rectinae modo sed multis (erat enim frequens amoenitas orae) laturus auxilium. Properat illuc unde alii fugiunt rectumque cursum, recta gubernacula in periculum tenet, adeo solutus metu, ut omnes illius mali motus, omnes figuras, ut deprenderat oculis, dictaret enotaretque. Iam navibus cinis incidebat, quo propius accederent, calidior et densior, iam pumices etiam nigrique et ambusti et fracti igne lapides, iam vadum subitum ruinaque montis litora obstantia. Cunctatus paulum, an retro flecteret, mox gubernatori ut ita faceret monenti 'fortes' inquit 'fortuna iuvat, Pomponianum pete.' Stabiis erat, diremptus sinu medio (nam sensim circumactis curvatisque litoribus mare infunditur): ibi, quamquam nondum periculo adpropinquante, conspicuo tamen et cum cresceret proximo, sarcinas contulerat in naves certus fugae, si contrarius ventus resedisset. Quo tunc avunculus meus secundissimo invectus complectitur trepidantem, consolatur, hortatur, utque timorem eius sua securitate leniret, deferri in balineum iubet: lotus accubat, cenat aut hilaris aut, quod aeque magnum, similis hilari. Interim e Vesuvio monte pluribus in locis latissimae flammae altaque incendia relucebant, quorum fulgor et claritas tenebris noctis excitabatur. Ille agrestium trepidatione ignes relictos desertasque villas per solitudinem ardere in remedium formidinis dictitabat. Tum se quieti dedit et quievit verissimo quidem somno. Nam meatus animae, qui illi propter amplitudinem corporis gravior et sonantior erat, ab iis qui limini obversabantur audiebatur. Sed area ex qua diaeta adibatur ita iam cinere

mixtisque pumicibus oppleta surrexerat, ut, si longior in cubiculo mora, exitus negaretur. Excitatus procedit seque Pomponiano ceterisque qui pervigilaverant reddit. In commune consultant, intra tecta subsistant an in aperto vagentur. Nam crebris vastisque tremoribus tecta nutabant et quasi emota sedibus suis nunc huc, nunc illuc abire aut referri videbantur. Sub dio rursus quamquam levium exesorumque pumicum casus metuebatur; quod tamen periculorum collatio elegit. Et apud illum quidem ratio rationem, apud alios timorem timor vicit. Cervicalia capitibus inposita linteis constringunt: id munimentum adversus incidentia fuit. Iam dies alibi, illic nox omnibus noctibus nigrior densiorque, quam tamen faces multae variaque lumina solabantur. Placuit egredi in litus et ex proximo aspicere, ecquid iam mare admitteret, quod adhuc vastum et adversum permanebat. Ibi super abiectum linteum recubans semel atque iterum frigidam poposcit hausitque. Deinde flammae flammarumque praenuntius odor sulpuris alios in fugam vertunt, excitant illum. Innitens servulis duobus adsurrexit et statim concidit, ut ego colligo, crassiore caligine spiritu obstructo clausoque stomacho, qui illi natura invalidus et angustus et frequenter aestuans erat. Ubi dies redditus (is ab eo quem novissime viderat *erat* tertius), corpus inventum integrum, inlaesum opertumque, ut fuerat indutus: habitus corporis quiescenti quam defuncto similior. Interim Miseni ego et mater—sed nihil ad historiam, nec tu aliud quam de exitu eius scire voluisti. Finem ergo faciam. Unum adiciam, omnia me quibus interfueram quaeque statim, cum maxime vera memorantur, audieram persecutum. Tu potissima excerpes. Aliud est enim epistulam aliud historiam, aliud amico, aliud omnibus scribere. Vale.

60. (BOOK 6. 19.)

The senate endeavouring to purify its elections to the magistracies, has been seconded by the Emperor, who has promulgated a law limiting the expenditure of candidates, and requires them to be qualified by the possession of property in Italy. This enactment has raised the value of landed property near the city.

C. PLINIUS NEPOTI SUO S.

Scis tu accessise pretium agris, praecipue suburbanis? Causa subitae caritatis res multis agitata sermonibus: proximis comitiis honestissimas voces senatus expressit, 'candidati ne conviventur, ne mittant munera, ne pecunias deponant.' Ex quibus duo priora tam aperte quam immodice fiebant, hoc tertium, quamquam occultaretur, pro comperto habebatur. Homullus deinde noster, vigilanter usus hoc consensu senatus, sententiae loco postulavit ut consules desiderium universorum notum principi facerent peterentque, sicut aliis vitiis huic quoque providentia sua occurreret. Occurrit: nam sumptus candidatorum, foedos illos et infames, ambitus lege restrinxit: eosdem patrimonii tertiam partem conferre iussit in ea quae solo continerentur, deforme arbitratus, et erat, honorem petituros urbem Italiamque non pro patria, sed pro hospitio aut stabulo quasi peregrinantes habere. Concursant ergo candidati: certatim quidquid venale audiunt emptitant quoque sint plura venalia efficiunt. Proinde si paenitet te Italicorum praediorum, hoc vendendi tempus tam hercule quam in provinciis comparandi, dum iidem candidati illic vendunt, ut hic emant. Vale.

61. (BOOK 6. 20.)

Pliny gives Tacitus a narrative of his own observations and adventures during the eruption, after his uncle left him at Misenum.

C. PLINIUS TACITO SUO S.

Ais te adductum litteris quas exigenti tibi de morte

avunculi mei scripsi cupere cognoscere, quos ego Miseni relictus (id enim ingressus abruperam) non solum metus verum etiam casus pertulerim. 'Quamquam animus meminisse horret, incipiam.' Profecto avunculo ipse reliquum tempus studiis (ideo enim remanseram) inpendi: mox balineum, cena, somnus inquietus et brevis. Praecesserat per multos dies tremor terrae minus formidolosus, quia Campaniae solitus. Illa vero nocte ita invaluit, ut non moveri omnia sed verti crederentur. Inrumpit cubiculum meum mater: surgebam invicem, si quiesceret, excitaturus. Residimus in area domus, quae mare a tectis modico spatio dividebat. Dubito constantiam vocare an inprudentiam debeam (agebam enim duodevicensimum annum): posco librum Titi Livi et quasi per otium lego atque etiam, ut coeperam, excerpo. Ecce amicus avunculi, qui nuper ad eum ex Hispania venerat, ut me et matrem sedentes, me vero etiam legentem videt, illius patientiam, securitatem meam corripit. Nihilo segnius ego intentus in librum. Iam hora diei prima, et adhuc dubius et quasi languidus dies: iam quassatis circumiacentibus tectis, quamquam in aperto loco, angusto tamen, magnus et certus ruinae metus. Tum demum excedere oppido visum: sequitur vulgus attonitum, quodque in pavore simile prudentiae, alienum consilium suo praefert ingentique agmine abeuntes premit et inpellit. Egressi tecta consistimus. Multa ibi miranda, multas formidines patimur. Nam vehicula quae produci iusseramus, quamquam in planissimo campo, in contrarias partes agebantur ac ne lapidibus quidem fulta in eodem vestigio quiescebant. Praeterea mare in se resorberi et tremore terrae quasi repelli videbamus. Certe processerat litus multaque animalia maris siccis harenis detinebat. Ab altero latere nubes atra et horrenda ignei spiritus tortis vibratisque discursibus rupta in longas flammarum figuras dehiscebat: fulguribus illae et similes

et maiores erant. Tum vero idem ille ex Hispania amicus acrius et instantius 'si frater' inquit 'tuus, tuus avunculus vivit, vult esse vos salvos; si periit, superstites voluit. Proinde quid cessatis evadere?' Respondimus non commissuros nos ut de salute illius incerti nostrae consuleremus. Non moratus ultra proripit se effusoque cursu periculo aufertur. X Nec multo post illa nubes descendere in terras, operire maria: cinxerat Capreas et absconderat, Miseni quod procurrit abstulerat. Tum mater orare, hortari, iubere quoquo modo fugerem; posse enim iuvenem, se et annis et corpore gravem bene morituram, si mihi causa mortis non fuisset. Ego contra, salvum me nisi una non futurum: dein manum eius amplexus addere gradum cogo. Paret aegre incusatque se, quod me moretur. Iam cinis, adhuc tamen rarus: respicio; densa caligo tergis imminebat, quae nos torrentis modo infusa terrae sequebatur. 'Deflectamus' inquam, 'dum videmus ne in via strati comitantium turba in tenebris obteramur.' Vix consideramus, et nox, non qualis inlunis aut nubila, sed qualis in locis clausis lumine extincto. Audires ululatus feminarum, infantum quiritatus, clamores virorum: alii parentes, alii liberos, alii coniuges vocibus requirebant, vocibus noscitabant: hi suum casum, illi suorum miserabantur: erant qui metu mortis mortem precarentur: multi ad deos manus tollere, plures nusquam iam deos ullos aeternamque illam et novissimam noctem mundo interpretabantur. Nec defuerunt qui fictis mentitisque terroribus vera pericula augerent. Aderant qui Miseni illud ruisse, illud ardere falso, sed credentibus nuntiabant. Paulum reluxit, quod non dies nobis, sed adventantis ignis indicium videbatur. Et ignis quidem longius substitit, tenebrae rursus, cinis rursus multus et gravis. Hunc identidem adsurgentes excutiebamus; operti alioqui atque etiam oblisi pondere essemus. Possem gloriari non gemitum mihi, non

vocem parum fortem in tantis periculis excidisse, nisi me cum omnibus, omnia mecum perire misero, magno tamen mortalitatis solacio credidissem. Tandem illa caligo tenuata quasi in fumum nebulamve discessit: mox dies verus, sol etiam effulsit, luridus tamen, qualis esse, cum deficit, solet. Occursabant trepidantibus adhuc oculis mutata omnia altoque cinere tamquam nive obducta. Regressi Misenum curatis utcumque corporibus suspensam dubiamque noctem spe ac metu exegimus. Metus praevalebat: nam et tremor terrae perseverabat, et plerique lymphati terrificis vaticinationibus et sua et aliena mala ludificabantur. Nobis tamen ne tunc quidem, quamquam et expertis periculum et expectantibus, abeundi consilium, donec de avunculo nuntius. Haec nequaquam historia digna non scripturus leges et tibi, scilicet qui requisisti, imputabis, si digna ne epistula quidem videbuntur. Vale.

62. (BOOK 6. 33.)

Pliny sends Romanus his masterpiece of oratory, his speech on behalf of Attia Viriola, unjustly disinherited by the influence of her stepmother.

C. PLINIUS ROMANO SUO S.

'Tollite cuncta' inquit 'coeptosque auferte labores.'
Seu scribis aliquid seu legis, tolli auferri iube et accipe orationem meam, ut illa arma, divinam (num superbius potui?), re vera ut inter meas pulchram: nam mihi satis est certare mecum. Est haec pro Attia Viriola, et dignitate personae et exempli raritate et iudicii magnitudine insignis. Nam femina splendide nata, nupta praetorio viro, exheredata ab octogenario patre intra undecim dies, quam illi novercam amore captus induxerat, quadruplici iudicio bona paterna repetebat. Sedebant centum et octoginta iudices (tot enim quattuor consiliis colliguntur): ingens

utrimque advocatio et numerosa subsellia, praeterea densa circumstantium corona latissimum iudicium multiplici circulo ambibat. Ad hoc stipatum tribunal, atque etiam ex superiore basilicae parte qua feminae qua viri et audiendi, quod difficile, et, quod facile, visendi studio imminebant. Magna expectatio patrum, magna filiarum, magna etiam novercarum. Secutus est varius eventus. Nam duobus consiliis vicimus, totidem victi sumus. Notabilis prorsus et mira eadem in causa, isdem iudicibus, isdem advocatis, eodem tempore tanta diversitas accidit casu, non quod casus videretur. Victa est noverca, ipsa heres ex parte sexta, victus Suberinus, qui exheredatus a patre singulari inpudentia alieni patris bona vindicabat, non ausus sui petere. Haec tibi exposui, primum ut ex epistula scires quae ex oratione non poteras; deinde (nam detegam artes) ut orationem libentius legeres, si non legere tibi, sed interesse iudicio videreris: quam, sit licet magna, non despero gratiam brevissimae impetraturam. Nam et copia rerum et arguta divisione et narratiunculis pluribus et eloquendi varietate renovatur. Sunt multa (non auderem nisi tibi dicere) elata, multa pugnacia, multa subtilia. Intervenit enim acribus illis et erectis frequens necessitas conputandi ac paene calculos tabulamque poscendi, ut repente in privati iudicii formam centumvirale vertatur. Dedimus vela indignationi, dedimus irae, dedimus dolori et in amplissima causa, quasi magno mari, pluribus ventis sumus vecti. In summa solent quidam ex contubernalibus nostris existimare hanc orationem, iterum dicam, ut inter meas ὑπὲρ Κτησιφῶντος esse: an vere, tu facillime iudicabis, qui tam memoriter tenes omnes, ut conferre cum hac, dum hanc solam legis, possis. Vale.

63. (BOOK 6. 34.)

Pliny approves of Maximus' conduct in acceding to the request of Verona that he would celebrate his wife's memory by a gladiatorial exhibition.

C. PLINIUS MAXIMO SUO S.

Recte fecisti quod gladiatorum munus Veronensibus nostris promisisti, a quibus olim amaris, suspiceris, ornaris. Inde etiam uxorem carissimam tibi et probatissimam habuisti, cuius memoriae aut opus aliquod aut spectaculum atque hoc potissimum quod maxime funeri debebatur. Praeterea tanto consensu rogabaris, ut negare non constans, sed durum videretur. Illud quoque egregie, quod tam facilis, tam liberalis in edendo fuisti. Nam per haec etiam magnus animus ostenditur. Vellem Africanae, quas coemeras plurimas, ad praefinitum diem occurrissent: sed licet cessaverint illae tempestate detentae, tu tamen meruisti ut acceptum tibi fieret, quod quo minus exhiberes non per te stetit. Vale.

64. (BOOK 7. 11.)

Pliny explains to Fabatus the obligations of friendship which induce him to sell to Corellia, at an inadequate price, the share which has lately been left to him in a property near the Lago di Como.

C. PLINIUS FABATO PROSOCERO SUO S.

Miraris quod Hermes, libertus meus, hereditarios agros, quos ego iusseram proscribi, non expectata auctione pro meo quincunce ex septingentis milibus Corelliae addixerit. Adicis hos nongentis milibus posse venire ac tanto magis quaeris, an quod gessit ratum servem. Ego vero servo: quibus ex causis, accipe. Cupio enim et tibi probatum et coheredibus meis excusatum esse, quod me ab illis maiore officio iubente secerno. Corelliam cum summa reverentia

diligo, primum ut sororem Corelli Rufi, cuius mihi memoria sacrosancta est, deinde ut matri meae familiarissimam. Sunt mihi et cum marito eius, Minicio Iusto, optimo viro, vetera iura; fuerunt et cum filio maxima, adeo quidem, ut praetore me ludis meis praesederit. Haec, cum proxime istic fui, indicavit mihi cupere se aliquid circa Larium nostrum possidere. Ego illi ex praediis meis quod vellet et quanti vellet obtuli exceptis maternis paternisque: his enim cedere ne Corelliae quidem possum. Igitur cum obvenisset mihi hereditas, in qua praedia ista, scripsi ei venalia futura. Has epistulas Hermes tulit exigentique ut statim portionem meam sibi addiceret paruit. Vides, quam ratum debeam habere quod libertus meus meis moribus gessit. Superest ut coheredes aequo animo ferant separatim me vendidisse quod mihi licuit omnino non vendere. Nec vero coguntur imitari meum exemplum: non enim illis eadem cum Corellia iura. Possunt ergo intueri utilitatem suam, pro qua mihi fuit amicitia. Vale.

65. (BOOK 7. 14.)

Corellia has found out the advantage she has been allowed in her purchase, and wishes to pay the full price, which however Pliny gently but firmly refuses.

C. PLINIUS CORELLIAE SUAE S.

Tu quidem honestissime, quod tam inpense et rogas et exigis ut accipi iubeam a te pretium agrorum non ex septingentis milibus, quanti illos a liberto meo, sed ex nongentis, quanti a publicanis partem vicesimam emisti. Invicem ego et rogo et exigo ut non solum quid te, verum etiam quid me deceat aspicias patiarisque me in hoc uno tibi eodem animo repugnare, quo in omnibus obsequi soleo. Vale.

66. (BOOK 7. 18.)

Caninius, anxious about an endowment he is establishing at Comum, is advised by Pliny to adopt his method, namely, to establish a permanent rent charge on a portion of his property, which shall be payable to the authorities of the borough.

C. PLINIUS CANINO SUO S.

Deliberas mecum, quem ad modum pecunia, quam municipibus nostris in epulum obtulisti, post te quoque salva sit. Honesta consultatio, non expedita sententia. Numeres rei publicae summam? verendum est ne dilabatur. Des agros? ut publici neglegentur. Equidem nihil commodius invenio, quam quod ipse feci. Nam pro quingentis milibus nummum, quae in alimenta ingenuorum ingenuarumque promiseram, agrum ex meis longe pluris actori publico mancipavi: eundem vectigali inposito recepi, tricena milia annua daturus. Per hoc enim et rei publicae sors in tuto nec reditus incertus, et ager ipse propter id, quod vectigal large supercurrit, semper dominum, a quo exerceatur, inveniet. Nec ignoro me plus aliquanto quam donasse videor erogavisse, cum pulcherrimi agri pretium necessitas vectigalis infregerit. Sed oportet privatis utilitatibus publicas, mortalibus aeternas anteferre, multoque diligentius muneri suo consulere quam facultatibus. Vale.

67. (BOOK 7. 19.)

The illness of Fannia gives occasion for a sketch of her virtues, and a eulogy of her family.

C. PLINIUS PRISCO SUO S.

Angit me Fanniae valetudo. Contraxit hanc, dum adsidet Iuniae virgini, sponte primum (est enim adfinis), deinde etiam ex auctoritate pontificum. Nam virgines, cum vi morbi atrio Vestae coguntur excedere, matronarum curae

custodiaeque mandantur. Quo munere Fannia dum sedulo fungitur, hoc discrimine inplicita est. Insident febres, tussis increscit, summa macies, summa defectio: animus tantum et spiritus viget Helvidio marito, Thrasea patre dignissimus; reliqua labuntur meque non metu tantum verum etiam dolore conficiunt. Doleo enim feminam maximam eripi oculis civitatis nescio an aliquid simile visuris. Quae castitas illi! quae sanctitas! quanta gravitas! quanta constantia! bis maritum secuta in exilium est, tertio ipsa propter maritum relegata. Nam cum Senecio reus esset, quod de vita Helvidi libros composuisset, rogatumque se a Fannia in defensione dixisset, quaerente minaciter Mettio Caro, an rogasset, respondit 'rogavi,' an commentarios scripturo dedisset, 'dedi,' an sciente matre, 'nesciente'; postremo nullam vocem cedentem periculo emisit. Quin etiam illos ipsos libros, quamquam ex necessitate et metu temporum abolitos senatus consulto, publicatis bonis servavit, habuit tulitque in exilium exilii causam. Eadem quam iucunda, quam comis, quam denique, quod paucis datum est, non minus amabilis quam veneranda! Eritne quam postea uxoribus nostris ostentare possimus? Erit a qua viri quoque fortitudinis exempla sumamus, quam sic cernentes audientesque miremur, ut illas quae leguntur? Ac mihi domus ipsa nutare convulsaque sedibus suis ruitura supra videtur, licet adhuc posteros habeat. Quantis enim virtutibus quantisque factis adsequentur ut haec non novissima occiderit? Me quidem illud etiam adfligit et torquet, quod matrem eius, illam (nihil possum inlustrius dicere) tantae feminae matrem, rursus videor amittere, quam haec, ut reddit ac refert nobis, sic auferet secum meque et novo pariter et rescisso vulnere adficiet. Utramque dilexi; utram magis, nescio, nec discerni volebant. Habuerunt officia mea in secundis, habuerunt in adversis. Ego solacium relegatarum, ergo ultor reversarum; non feci tamen paria atque

eo magis hanc cupio servari, ut mihi solvendi tempora supersint. In his eram curis, cum scriberem ad te; quas si deus aliquis in gaudium verterit, de metu non querar. Vale.

68. (BOOK 7. 27.)

Pliny, under cover of inquiring Sura's opinion about ghosts, relates appearances seen by Curtius Rufus, Athenodorus, and one of Pliny's own slaves.

C. PLINIUS SURAE SUO S.

Et mihi discendi et tibi docendi facultatem otium praebet. Igitur perquam velim scire, esse phantasmata et habere propriam figuram numenque aliquod putes, an inania et vana ex metu nostro imaginem accipere. Ego ut esse credam in primis eo ducor, quod audio accidisse Curtio Rufo. Tenuis adhuc et obscurus obtinenti Africam comes haeserat: inclinato die spatiabatur in porticu: offertur ei mulieris figura humana grandior pulchriorque: perterrito Africam se, futurorum praenuntiam, dixit; iturum enim Romam honoresque gesturum atque etiam cum summo imperio in eandem provinciam reversurum ibique moriturum. Facta sunt omnia. Praeterea accedenti Carthaginem egredientique nave eadem figura in litore occurrisse narratur. Ipse certe inplicitus morbo, futura praeteritis, adversa secundis auguratus, spem salutis nullo suorum desperante proiecit. Iam illud nonne et magis terribile et non minus mirum est, quod exponam ut accepi? Erat Athenis spatiosa et capax domus, sed infamis et pestilens. Per silentium noctis sonus ferri et, si attenderes acrius, strepitus vinculorum longius primo, deinde e proximo reddebatur: mox apparebat idolon, senex macie et squalore confectus, promissa barba, horrenti capillo: cruribus compedes, manibus catenas gerebat quatiebatque. Inde inhabitantibus tristes diraeque

noctes per metum vigilabantur: vigiliam morbus et crescente formidine mors sequebatur. Nam interdiu quoque, quamquam abscesserat imago, memoria imaginis oculis inerrabat, longiorque causis timoris timor erat. Deserta inde et damnata solitudine domus totaque illi monstro relicta; proscribebatur tamen, seu quis emere, seu quis conducere ignarus tanti mali vellet. Venit Athenas philosophus Athenodorus, legit titulum auditoque pretio, quia suspecta vilitas, percunctatus omnia docetur ac nihilo minus, immo tanto magis conducit. Ubi coepit advesperascere, iubet sterni sibi in prima domus parte, poscit pugillares stilum lumen; suos omnes in interiora dimittit, ipse ad scribendum animum oculos manum intendit, ne vacua mens audita simulacra et inanes sibi metus fingeret. Initio, quale ubique, silentium noctis, dein concuti ferrum, vincula moveri: ille non tollere oculos, non remittere stilum, sed offirmare animum auribusque praetendere: tum crebrescere fragor, adventare et iam ut in limine, iam ut intra limen audiri: respicit, videt agnoscitque narratam sibi effigiem. Stabat innuebatque digito similis vocanti: hic contra ut paulum expectaret manu significat rursusque ceris et stilo incumbit: illa scribentis capiti catenis insonabat: respicit rursus idem quod prius innuentem nec moratus tollit lumen et sequitur. Ibat illa lento gradu, quasi gravis vinculis: postquam deflexit in aream domus, repente dilapsa deserit comitem: desertus herbas et folia concerpta signum loco ponit. Postero die adit magistratus, monet ut illum locum effodi iubeant. Inveniuntur ossa inserta catenis et inplicita, quae corpus aevo terraque putrefactum nuda et exesa reliquerat vinculis: collecta publice sepeliuntur. Domus postea rite conditis manibus caruit. Et haec quidem adfirmantibus credo; illud adfirmare aliis possum. Est libertus mihi non inlitteratus: cum hoc minor frater eodem lecto quiescebat: is visus est sibi cernere quendam in toro residentem admoventemque

capiti suo cultros atque etiam ex ipso vertice amputantem capillos. Ubi inluxit, ipse circa verticem tonsus, capilli iacentes reperiuntur. Exiguum temporis medium, et rursus simile aliud priori fidem fecit. Puer in paedagogio mixtus pluribus dormiebat: venerunt per fenestras (ita narrat) in tunicis albis duo cubantemque detonderunt et qua venerant recesserunt. Hunc quoque tonsum sparsosque circa capillos dies ostendit. Nihil notabile secutum, nisi forte quod non fui reus, futurus, si Domitianus, sub quo haec acciderunt, diutius vixisset. Nam in scrinio eius datus a Caro de me libellus inventus est; ex quo coniectari potest, quia reis moris est summittere capillum, recisos meorum capillos depulsi quod imminebat periculi signum fuisse. Proinde rogo eruditionem tuam intendas. Digna res est quam diu multumque consideres, ne ego quidem indignus cui copiam scientiae tuae facias. Licet etiam utramque in partem, ut soles, disputes, ex altera tamen fortius, ne me suspensum incertumque dimittas, cum mihi consulendi causa fuerit ut dubitare desinerem. Vale.

69. (BOOK 7. 33.)

Pliny begs Tacitus to insert in his Histories some mention of the fearless zeal with which he, together with Senecio, followed up their joint attack on Baebius Massa.

C. PLINIUS TACITO SUO S.

Auguror, nec me fallit augurium, historias tuas immortales futuras; quo magis illis, ingenue fatebor, inseri cupio. Nam si esse nobis curae solet ut facies nostra ab optimo quoque artifice exprimatur, nonne debemus optare ut operibus nostris similis tui scriptor praedicatorque contingat? Demonstro ergo, quamquam diligentiam tuam fugere non possit, cum sit in publicis actis, demonstro tamen, quo magis credas iucundum mihi futurum, si factum meum,

cuius gratia periculo crevit, tuo ingenio, tuo testimonio ornaveris. Dederat me senatus cum Herennio Senecione advocatum provinciae Baeticae contra Baebium Massam damnatoque Massa censuerat ut bona eius publice custodirentur. Senecio, cum explorasset consules postulationibus vacaturos, convenit me et 'qua concordia' inquit 'iniunctam nobis accusationem exsecuti sumus, hac adeamus consules petamusque ne bona dissipari sinant quorum esse in custodia debent.' Respondi 'cum simus advocati a senatu dati, dispice num peractas putes partes nostras senatus cognitione finita.' Et ille 'tu quem voles tibi terminum statues, cui nulla cum provincia necessitudo nisi ex beneficio tuo, et hoc recenti; ipse et natus ibi et quaestor in ea fui.' Tum ego 'si fixum tibi istud ac deliberatum, sequar te, ut, siqua ex hoc invidia, non tantum tua.' Venimus ad consules, dicit Senecio quae res ferebat, aliqua subiungo. Vixdum conticueramus, et Massa questus Senecionem non advocati fidem, sed inimici amaritudinem inplesse, impietatis reum postulat. Horror omnium: ego autem 'vereor' inquam, 'clarissimi consules, ne mihi Massa silentio suo praevaricationem obiecerit, quod non et me reum postulavit.' Quae vox et statim excepta et postea multo sermone celebrata est. Divus quidem Nerva (nam privatus quoque attendebat his quae recte in publico fierent) missis ad me gravissimis litteris non mihi solum verum etiam saeculo est gratulatus, cui exemplum (sic enim scripsit) simile antiquis contigisset. Haec, utcumque se habent, notiora clariora maiora tu facies: quamquam non exigo ut excedas actae rei modum. Nam nec historia debet egredi veritatem, et honeste factis veritas sufficit. Vale.

70. (BOOK 8. 2.)

Pliny has felt obliged, by the failure of the crop, to throw back to the purchasers of his vintages part of the price agreed on; and points out that he has made his remissions on a scale proportionate to the size of the various bargains, and at the same time has encouraged prompt payers.

C. PLINIUS CALVISIO SUO S.

Alii in praedia sua proficiscuntur, ut locupletiores revertantur, ego, ut pauperior. Vendideram vindemias certatim negotiatoribus ementibus. Invitabat pretium, et quod tunc et quod fore videbatur. Spes fefellit. Erat expeditum omnibus remittere aequaliter, sed non satis aequum. Mihi autem egregium in primis videtur ut foris ita domi, ut in magnis ita in parvis, ut in alienis ita in suis agitare iustitiam. Nam si paria peccata, pares etiam laudes. Itaque omnibus quidem, ne quis mihi non donatus abiret, partem octavam pretii quo quis emerat concessi; deinde iis qui amplissimas summas emptionibus occupaverant separatim consului. Nam et me magis iuverant et maius ipsi fecerant damnum. Igitur iis qui pluris quam decem milibus emerant ad illam communem et quasi publicam octavam addidi decumam eius summae, qua decem milia excesserant. Vereor ne parum expresserim; apertius calculos ostendam. Siqui forte quindecim milibus emerant, hi et quindecim milium octavam et quinque milium decimam tulerunt. Praeterea, cum reputarem quosdam ex debito aliquantum, quosdam aliquid, quosdam nihil reposuisse, nequaquam verum arbitrabar, quos non aequasset fides solutionis, hos benignitate remissionis aequari. Rursus ergo iis qui solverant eius quod solverant decimam remisi. Per hoc enim aptissime et in praeteritum singulis pro cuiusque merito gratia referri, et in futurum omnes cum ad emendum tum etiam ad solvendum allici videbantur. Magno mihi seu ratio haec seu facilitas stetit, sed fuit tanti. Nam regione tota et novitas remissionis

et forma laudatur. Ex ipsis etiam, quos non una, ut dicitur, pertica, sed distincte gradatimque tractavi, quanto quis melior et probior, tanto mihi obligatior abiit, expertus non esse apud me *ἐν δὲ ἰῇ τιμῇ ἡμὲν κακὸν ἠδὲ καὶ ἐσθλόν.* Vale.

71. (BOOK 8. 4.)

Pliny congratulates Caninius on having chosen Trajan's Dacian campaigns for the subject of an epic; hints at the difficulty of adapting the barbaric names to verse; and begs that the author will let him see something of his work while it is still in the rough.

C. PLINIUS CANINIO SUO S.

Optime facis quod bellum Dacicum scribere paras. Nam quae tam recens, tam copiosa, tam lata, quae denique tam poetica et quamquam in verissimis rebus tam fabulosa materia? Dices inmissa terris nova flumina, novos pontes fluminibus iniectos, insessa castris montium abrupta, pulsum regia, pulsum etiam vita regem nihil desperantem; super haec actos bis triumphos, quorum alter ex invicta gente primus, alter novissimus fuit. Una, sed maxima difficultas, quod haec aequare dicendo arduum inmensum, etiam tuo ingenio, quamquam altissime adsurgat et amplissimis operibus increscat. Non nullus et in illo labor, ut barbara et fera nomina, in primis regis ipsius, graecis versibus non resultent. Sed nihil est quod non arte curaque, si non potest vinci, mitigetur. Praeterea, si datur Homero et mollia vocabula et graeca ad levitatem versus contrahere, extendere, inflectere, cur tibi similis audentia, praesertim non delicata sed necessaria, non detur? Proinde iure vatum invocatis dis et inter deos ipso, cuius res opera consilia dicturus es, immitte rudentes, pande vela, ac siquando alias, toto ingenio vehere. Cur enim non ego quoque poetice cum poeta? Illud iam nunc paciscor: prima quaeque ut absolveris, mittito, immo etiam ante quam absolvas, sicut erunt recentia et rudia et adhuc

similia nascentibus. Respondebis non posse perinde carptim ut contexta, perinde inchoata placere ut effecta. Scio: itaque et a me aestimabuntur ut coepta, spectabuntur ut membra extremamque limam tuam opperientur in scrinio nostro. Patere hoc me super cetera habere amoris tui pignus, ut ea quoque norim, quae nosse neminem velles. In summa potero fortasse scripta tua magis probare laudare, quanto illa tardius cautiusque, sed ipsum te magis amabo magisque laudabo, quanto celerius et incautius miseris. Vale.

72. (BOOK 8. 8.)

Pliny describes the source of the Clitumnus, its sudden expansion into a river, and the various attractions of the spot.

C. PLINIUS ROMANO SUO S.

Vidistine aliquando Clitumni fontem? Si nondum (et puto nondum; alioqui narrasses mihi), vide, quem ego (paenitet tarditatis) proxime vidi. Modicus collis adsurgit antiqua cupresso nemorosus et opacus: hunc subter exit fons et exprimitur pluribus venis, sed inparibus, eluctatusque quem facit gurgitem lato gremio patescit purus et vitreus, ut numerare iactas stipes et relucentes calculos possis. Inde non loci devexitate, sed ipsa sui copia et quasi pondere inpellitur. Fons adhuc et iam amplissimum flumen atque etiam navium patiens, quas obvias quoque et contrario nisu in diversa tendentes transmittit et perfert, adeo validus, ut illa qua properat ipse, quamquam per solum planum, remis non adiuvetur, idem aegerrime remis contisque superetur adversus. Iucundum utrumque per iocum ludumque fluitantibus, ut flexerint cursum, laborem otio, otium labore variare. Ripae fraxino multa, multa populo vestiuntur, quas perspicuus amnis velut mersas viridi imagine adnumerat. Rigor aquae certaverit nivibus, nec color cedit. Adiacet templum priscum et

religiosum: stat Clitumnus ipse amictus ornatusque praetexta: praesens numen atque etiam fatidicum indicant sortes. Sparsa sunt circa sacella complura totidemque di, Sui cuique veneratio, suum nomen, quibusdam vero etiam fontes. Nam praeter illum quasi parentem ceterorum sunt minores capite discreti; sed flumini miscentur, quod ponte transmittitur. Is terminus sacri profanique. In superiore parte navigare tantum, infra etiam natare concessum. Balineum Hispellates, quibus illum locum divus Augustus dono dedit, publice praebent, praebent et hospitium. Nec desunt villae, quae secutae fluminis amoenitatem margini insistunt. In summa nihil erit ex quo non capias voluptatem. Nam studebis quoque; leges multa multorum omnibus columnis, omnibus parietibus inscripta, quibus fons ille deusque celebratur. Plura laudabis, non nulla ridebis; quamquam tu vero, quae tua humanitas, nulla ridebis. Vale.

73. (BOOK 8. 16.)

Although Pliny comforts himself for the loss of his slaves by manumitting them before death, and permitting them to dispose of their property by will, yet the humanity which prompts this concession is deeply affected by their decease.

C. PLINIUS PATERNO SUO S.

Confecerunt me infirmitates meorum, mortes etiam, et quidem iuvenum. Solacia duo nequaquam paria tanto dolori, solacia tamen: unum facilitas manumittendi; videor enim non omnino inmaturos perdidisse quos iam liberos perdidi: alterum, quod permitto servis quoque quasi testamenta facere eaque ut legitima custodio. Mandant rogantque quod visum; pareo ut iussus: dividunt, donant, relinquunt, dumtaxat intra domum: nam servis res publica quaedam et quasi civitas domus est. Sed quamquam his solaciis adquiescam, debilitor et frangor eadem illa

humanitate, quae me ut hoc ipsum permitterem induxit. Non ideo tamen velim durior fieri. Nec ignoro alios eius modi casus nihil amplius vocare quam damnum eoque sibi magnos homines et sapientes videri. Qui an magni sapientesque sint nescio, homines non sunt. Hominis est enim adfici dolore, sentire, resistere tamen et solacia admittere, non solaciis non egere. Verum de his plura fortasse quam debui, sed pauciora quam volui. Est enim quaedam etiam dolendi voluptas, praesertim si in amici sinu defleas, apud quem lacrimis tuis vel laus sit parata vel venia. Vale.

74. (BOOK 9. 3.)

Men should either consider the immortality of fame, and work for it, or the shortness of life, and enjoy it; and Pliny knows that Paulinus agrees with him in preferring the former course.

C. PLINIUS PAULINO SUO S.

Alius aliud, ego beatissimum existimo qui bonae mansuraeque famae praesumptione perfruitur certusque posteritatis cum futura gloria vivit. Ac mihi nisi praemium aeternitatis ante oculos, pingue illud altumque otium placeat. Etenim omnes homines arbitror oportere aut inmortalitatem suam aut mortalitatem cogitare, et illos quidem contendere eniti, hos quiescere remitti nec brevem vitam caducis laboribus fatigare, ut video multos misera simul et ingrata imagine industriae ad vilitatem sui pervenire. Haec ego tecum, quae cotidie mecum, ut desinam mecum, si dissenties tu; quamquam non dissenties, ut qui semper clarum aliquid et inmortale meditere. Vale.

75. (BOOK 9. 6.)

The occupation of the Romans in the games of the Circus, in which Pliny can see no element of rational interest, has given Pliny a few days' leisure for literary pursuits.

C. PLINIUS CALVISIO SUO S.

Omne hoc tempus inter pugillares ac libellos iucundissima quiete transmisi. 'Quem ad modum' inquis 'in urbe potuisti?' Circenses erant, quo genere spectaculi ne levissime quidem teneor. Nihil novum, nihil varium, nihil quod non semel spectasse sufficiat. Quo magis miror tot milia virorum tam pueriliter identidem cupere currentes equos, insistentes curribus homines videre. Si tamen aut velocitate equorum aut hominum arte traherentur, esset ratio non nulla: nunc favent panno, pannum amant, et si in ipso cursu medioque certamine hic color illuc, ille huc transferatur, studium favorque transibit, et repente agitatores illos, equos illos, quos procul noscitant, quorum clamitant nomina, relinquent. Tanta gratia, tanta auctoritas in una vilissima tunica, mitto apud vulgus, quod vilius tunica, sed apud quosdam graves homines; quos ego cum recordor in re inani frigida adsidua tam insatiabiliter desidere, capio aliquam voluptatem, quod hac voluptate non capior. Ac per hos dies libentissime otium meum in litteris conloco, quos alii otiosissimis occupationibus perdunt. Vale.

76. (BOOK 9. 7.)

As Romanus is building at Baiae, so Pliny on the Lago di Como is enlarging two villas there, very different in their situation but equally attractive to their master.

C. PLINIUS ROMANO SUO S.

Aedificare te scribis. Bene est: inveni patrocinium; aedifico enim iam ratione, quia tecum. Nam hoc quoque

non dissimile, quod ad mare tu, ego ad Larium lacum. Huius in litore plures villae meae, sed duae maxime ut delectant ita exercent. Altera inposita saxis more Baiano lacum prospicit, altera aeque more Baiano lacum tangit. Itaque illam tragoediam, hanc appellare comoediam soleo; illam, quod quasi cothurnis, hanc, quod quasi socculis sustinetur. Sua utrique amoenitas et utraque possidenti ipsa diversitate iucundior. Haec lacu propius, illa latius utitur: haec unum sinum molli curvamine amplectitur, illa editissimo dorso duos dirimit: illic recta gestatio longo limite super litus extenditur, hic spatiosissimo xysto leniter inflectitur: illa fluctus non sentit, haec frangit: ex illa possis despicere piscantes, ex hac ipse piscari hamumque de cubiculo ac paene etiam de lectulo ut e naucula iacere. Hae mihi causae utrique quae desunt adstruendi ob ea quae supersunt. Sed quid ego rationem tibi? apud quem pro ratione erit idem facere. Vale.

77. (BOOK 9. 13.)

Pliny describes the debate which he raised in the senate on the case of Certus the enemy of Helvidius, the opposition with which he was met, the great effect of his concluding speech, and the punishment and death of Certus.

C. PLINIUS QUADRATO SUO S.

Quanto studiosius intentiusque legisti libros quos de Helvidi ultione composui, tanto impensius postulas ut perscribam tibi quaeque extra libros quaeque circa libros, totum denique ordinem rei, cui per aetatem non interfuisti. Occiso Domitiano statui mecum ac deliberavi esse magnam pulchramque materiam insectandi nocentes, miseros vindicandi, se proferendi. Porro inter multa scelera multorum nullum atrocius videbatur, quam quod in senatu senator senatori, praetorius consulari, reo iudex manus intulisset. Fuerat alioqui mihi cum Helvidio amicitia, quanta potuerat

esse cum eo qui metu temporum nomen ingens paresque virtutes secessu tegebat, fuerat cum Arria et Fannia, quarum altera Helvidi noverca, altera mater novercae. Sed non ita me iura privata ut publicum fas et indignitas facti et exempli ratio incitabat. Ac primis quidem diebus redditae libertatis pro se quisque inimicos suos, dumtaxat minores, incondito turbidoque clamore postulaverat simul et oppresserat. Ego et modestius et constantius arbitratus immanissimum reum non communi temporum invidia, sed proprio crimine urgere, cum iam satis primus ille impetus defremuisset et languidior in dies ira ad iustitiam redisset, quamquam tum maxime tristis amissa nuper uxore, mitto ad Anteiam (nupta haec Helvidio fuerat), rogo ut veniat, quia me recens adhuc luctus limine contineret. Ut venit, 'destinatum est' inquam 'mihi maritum tuum non inultum pati. Nuntia Arriae et Fanniae' (ab exilio redierant): 'consule te, consule illas, an velitis adscribi facto, in quo ego comite non egeo; sed non ita gloriae meae faverim, ut vobis societate eius invideam.' Perfert Anteia mandata, nec illae morantur. Opportune senatus intra diem tertium. Omnia ego semper ad Corellium rettuli, quem providentissimum aetatis nostrae sapientissimumque cognovi; in hoc tamen contentus consilio meo fui, veritus ne vetaret: erat enim cunctantior cautiorque. Sed non sustinui inducere in animum quo minus illi eodem die facturum me indicarem quod an facerem non deliberabam, expertus usu de eo quod destinaveris non esse consulendos quibus consultis obsequi debeas. Venio in senatum, ius dicendi peto, dico paulisper maximo adsensu. Ubi coepi crimen attingere, reum destinare, adhuc tamen sine nomine, undique mihi reclamari. Alius 'sciamus, quis sit de quo extra ordinem referas;' alius 'quis est ante relationem reus'? alius 'salvi simus, qui supersumus.' Audio inperturbatus, interritus: tantum susceptae rei honestas valet tantumque ad fiduciam vel metum differt, nolint

homines quod facias, an non probent. Longum est omnia quae tunc hinc inde iacta sunt recensere. Novissime consul 'Secunde, sententiae loco dices, siquid volueris.' 'Permiseras' inquam 'quod usque adhuc omnibus permisisti.' Resido: aguntur alia. Interim me quidam ex consularibus amicis secreto curatoque sermone quasi nimis fortiter incauteque progressum corripit, revocat, monet ut desistam; adicit etiam 'notabilem te futuris principibus fecisti.' 'Esto' inquam, 'dum malis.' Vix ille discesserat, rursus alter 'quid audes? quo ruis? quibus te periculis obicis? quid praesentibus confidis, incertus futurorum? Lacessis hominem iam praefectum aerarii et brevi consulem, praeterea qua gratia, quibus amicitiis fultum!' nominat quendam, qui tunc ad orientem amplissimum et famosissimum exercitum non sine magnis dubiisque rumoribus obtinebat. Ad haec ego 'omnia praecepi atque animo mecum ante peregi, nec recuso, si ita casus attulerit, luere poenas ob honestissimum factum, dum flagitiosissimum ulciscor.' Iam censendi tempus. Dicit Domitius Apollinaris, consul designatus, dicit Fabricius Veiento, Fabius Maximinus, Vettius Proculus, collega Publici Certi, de quo agebatur, uxoris meae, quam amiseram, vitricus, post hos Ammius Flaccus. Omnes Certum nondum a me nominatum ut nominatum defendunt crimenque quasi in medio relictum defensione suscipiunt. Quae praeterea dixerint, non est necesse narrare; in libris habes. Sum enim cuncta ipsorum verbis persecutus. Dicunt contra Avidius Quietus, Cornutus Tertullus: Quietus, iniquissimum esse querellas dolentium excludi, ideoque Arriae et Fanniae ius querendi non auferendum, nec interesse, cuius ordinis quis sit, sed quam causam habeat: Cornutus, datum se a consulibus tutorem Helvidi filiae petentibus matre eius et vitrico; nunc quoque non sustinere deserere officii sui partes, in quo tamen et suo dolori modum inponere et optimarum feminarum perferre

modestissimum adfectum, quas contentas esse admonere senatum Publici Certi cruentae adulationis et petere, si poena flagitii manifestissimi remittatur, nota certe quasi censoria inuratur. Tum Satrius Rufus medio ambiguoque sermone 'puto' inquit 'iniuriam factam Publicio Certo, si non absolvitur: nominatus est ab amicis Arriae et Fanniae, nominatus ab amicis suis. Nec debemus solliciti esse: iidem enim nos, qui bene sentimus de homine, et iudicaturi sumus: si innocens est, sicut et spero et malo et, donec aliquid probetur, credo, poteritis absolvere.' Haec illi, quo quisque ordine citabantur. Venitur ad me: consurgo, utor initio quod in libro est, respondeo singulis. Mirum qua intentione, quibus clamoribus omnia exceperint qui modo reclamabant: tanta conversio vel negotii dignitatem vel proventum orationis vel actoris constantiam subsecuta est. Finio: incipit respondere Veiento: nemo patitur: obturbatur, obstrepitur, adeo quidem ut diceret 'rogo, patres conscripti, ne me cogatis inplorare auxilium tribunorum.' Et statim Murena tribunus 'permitto tibi, vir clarissime Veiento, dicere.' Tunc quoque reclamatur. Inter moras consul citatis nominibus et peracta discessione mittit senatum ac paene adhuc stantem temptantemque dicere Veientonem reliquit. Multum ille de hac (ita vocabat) contumelia questus est Homerico versu

ὦ γέρον, ἦ μάλα δή σε νέοι τείρουσι μαχηταί.

Non fere quisquam in senatu fuit, qui non me complecteretur, exoscularetur certatimque laude cumularet, quod intermissum iam diu morem in publicum consulendi susceptis propriis simultatibus reduxissem, quod denique senatum invidia liberassem, qua flagrabat apud ordines alios, quod severus in ceteros senatoribus solis dissimulatione quasi mutua parceret. Haec acta sunt absente Certo: fuit enim seu tale aliquid suspicatus sive, ut excusabatur, infirmus. Et relationem quidem de eo Caesar ad senatum non

remisit; obtinui tamen quod intenderam. Nam collega Certi consulatum, successorem Certus accepit, planeque factum est quod dixeram in fine, 'reddat praemium sub optimo principe, quod a pessimo accepit.' Postea actionem meam, utcumque potui, recollegi, addidi multa. Accidit fortuitum, sed non tamquam fortuitum, quod editis libris Certus intra paucissimos dies inplicitus morbo decessit. Audivi referentes hanc imaginem menti eius, hanc oculis oberrasse, tamquam videret me sibi cum ferro imminere. Verane haec adfirmare non ausim; interest tamen exempli ut vera videantur. Habes epistulam, si modum epistulae cogites, libris quos legisti non minorem; sed inputabis tibi, qui contentus libris non fuisti. Vale.

78. (BOOK 9. 15.)

Pliny has sought leisure in the country, but does not find much satisfaction there either in his studies or in the duties of a country gentleman.

C. PLINIUS FALCONI SUO S.

Refugeram in Tuscos, ut omnia ad arbitrium meum facerem. At hoc ne in Tuscis quidem: tam multis undique rusticorum libellis et tam querulis inquietor, quos aliquanto magis invitus quam meos lego; nam et meos invitus. Retracto enim actiunculas quasdam, quod post intercapedinem temporis et frigidum et acerbum est. Rationes quasi absente me negleguntur. Interdum tamen equum conscendo et patrem familiae hactenus ago, quod aliquam partem praediorum, sed pro gestatione percurro. Tu consuetudinem serva nobisque sic rusticis urbana acta perscribe. Vale.

79. (BOOK 9. 21.)

Pliny begs a pardon from Sabinianus for a freedman of the latter who had offended him.

C. PLINIUS SABINIANO SUO S.

Libertus tuus, cui suscensere te dixeras, venit ad me advolutusque pedibus meis tamquam tuis haesit. Flevit multum, multum rogavit, multum etiam tacuit, in summa fecit mihi fidem paenitentiae. Vere credo emendatum, quia deliquisse se sentit. Irasceris, scio, et irasceris merito, id quoque scio: sed tunc praecipua mansuetudinis laus, cum irae causa iustissima est. Amasti hominem et, spero, amabis: interim sufficit ut exorari te sinas. Licebit rursus irasci, si meruerit, quod exoratus excusatius facies. Remitte aliquid adulescentiae ipsius, remitte lacrimis, remitte indulgentiae tuae: ne torseris illum, ne torseris etiam te. Torqueris enim, cum tam lenis irasceris. Vereor ne videar non rogare, sed cogere, si precibus eius meas iunxero. Iungam tamen tanto plenius et effusius, quanto ipsum acrius severiusque corripui destricte minatus numquam me postea rogaturum. Hoc illi, quem terreri oportebat, tibi non idem. Nam fortasse iterum rogabo, impetrabo iterum: sit modo tale ut rogare me, ut praestare te deceat. Vale.

80. (BOOK 9. 23.)

Pliny, hearing that his name is coupled with that of Tacitus, and also known on its own merits, is delighted with these assurances that his literary fame is fairly established.

C. PLINIUS MAXIMO SUO S.

Frequenter agenti mihi evenit ut centumviri, cum diu se intra iudicum auctoritatem gravitatemque tenuissent, omnes repente quasi victi coactique consurgerent laudarentque; frequenter e senatu famam, qualem maxime optaveram,

rettuli: numquam tamen maiorem cepi voluptatem, quam nuper ex sermone Corneli Taciti. Narrabat sedisse secum circensibus proximis equitem Romanum: hunc post varios eruditosque sermones requisisse 'Italicus es an provincialis?': se respondisse 'nosti me, et quidem ex studiis': ad hoc illum 'Tacitus es an Plinius?'. Exprimere non possum, quam sit iucundum mihi, quod nomina nostra quasi litterarum propria, non hominum, litteris redduntur, quod uterque nostrum his etiam ex studiis notus, quibus aliter ignotus est. Accidit aliud ante pauculos dies simile. Recumbebat mecum vir egregius, Fadius Rufinus, super eum municeps ipsius, qui illo die primum venerat in urbem; cui Rufinus demonstrans me 'vides hunc?' Multa deinde de studiis nostris. Et ille 'Plinius est' inquit. Verum fatebor, capio magnum laboris mei fructum. An, si Demosthenes iure laetatus est, quod illum anus Attica ita noscitavit, οὗτός ἐστι Δημοσθένης, ego celebritate nominis mei gaudere non debeo? Ego vero et gaudeo et gaudere me dico. Neque enim vereor ne iactantior videar, cum de me aliorum iudicium, non meum profero, praesertim apud te, qui nec ullius invides laudibus et faves nostris. Vale.

81. (BOOK 9. 33.)

The story of the boy and the dolphin at Hippo.

C. PLINIUS CANINO SUO S.

Incidi in materiam veram, sed simillimam fictae dignamque isto laetissimo altissimo planeque poetico ingenio, incidi autem, dum super cenam varia miracula hinc inde referuntur. Magna auctori fides. Tametsi quid poetae cum fide? Is tamen auctor, cui bene vel historiam scripturus credidisses. Est in Africa Hipponensis colonia mari proxima: adiacet navigabile stagnum: ex hoc in modum fluminis aestuarium emergit, quod vice alterna, prout aestus aut repressit aut

impulit, nunc infertur mari, nunc redditur stagno. Omnis hic aetas piscandi navigandi atque etiam natandi studio tenetur, maxime pueri, quos otium lususque sollicitat. His gloria et virtus altissime provehi: victor ille qui longissime ut litus ita simul natantes reliquit. Hoc certamine puer quidam audentior ceteris in ulteriora tendebat. Delphinus occurrit et nunc praecedere puerum, nunc sequi, nunc circumire, postremo subire, deponere, iterum subire trepidantemque perferre primum in altum, mox flectit ad litus redditque terrae et aequalibus. Serpit per coloniam fama: concurrere omnes, ipsum puerum tamquam miraculum aspicere, interrogare, audire, narrare. Postero die obsident litus, prospectant mare et siquid est mari simile. Natant pueri, inter hos ille, sed cautius. Delphinus rursus ad tempus, rursus ad puerum. Fugit ille cum ceteris. Delphinus, quasi invitet revocet, exilit mergitur variosque orbes implicat expeditque. Hoc altero die, hoc tertio, hoc pluribus, donec homines innutritos mari subiret timendi pudor. Accedunt et adludunt et appellant, tangunt etiam pertrectantque praebentem. Crescit audacia experimento. Maxime puer qui primus expertus est adnatat, insilit tergo, fertur referturque, agnosci se et amari putat, amat ipse: neuter timet, neuter timetur: huius fiducia, mansuetudo illius augetur. Nec non alii pueri dextra laevaque simul eunt hortantes monentesque. Ibat una (id quoque mirum) delphinus alius, tantum spectator et comes: nihil enim simile aut faciebat aut patiebatur, sed alterum illum ducebat reducebatque, ut puerum ceteri pueri. Incredibile, tam verum tamen quam priora, delphinum gestatorem collusoremque puerorum in terram quoque extrahi solitum harenisque siccatum, ubi incaluisset, in mare revolvi. Constat Octavium Avitum, legatum proconsulis, in litus educto religione prava superfudisse unguentum, cuius illum novitatem odoremque in altum refugisse nec nisi post multo

dies visum languidum et maestum, mox redditis viribus priorem lasciviam et solita ministeria repetisse. Confluebant omnes ad spectaculum magistratus, quorum adventu et mora modica res publica novis sumptibus atterebatur. Postremo locus ipse quietem suam secretumque perdebat. Placuit occulte interfici ad quod coibatur. Haec tu qua miseratione, qua copia deflebis, ornabis, attolles! quamquam non est opus adfingas aliquid aut adstruas: sufficit ne ea quae sunt vera minuantur. Vale.

82. (BOOK 9. 36.)

How Pliny spends his day in his Tuscan villa.

C. PLINIUS FUSCO SUO S.

Quaeris quem ad modum in Tuscis diem aestate disponam. Evigilo cum libuit, plerumque circa horam primam, saepe ante, tardius raro; clausae fenestrae manent. Mire enim silentio et tenebris ab iis quae avocant abductus et liber et mihi relictus non oculos animo, sed animum oculis sequor, qui eadem quae mens vident, quotiens non vident alia. Cogito, siquid in manibus, cogito ad verbum scribenti emendantique similis, nunc pauciora nunc plura, ut vel difficile vel facile componi tenerive potuerunt. Notarium voco et die admisso quae formaveram dicto: abit rursusque revocatur rursusque dimittitur. Ubi hora quarta vel quinta (neque enim certum dimensumque tempus), ut dies suasit, in xystum me vel cryptoporticum confero, reliqua meditor et dicto. Vehiculum ascendo: ibi quoque idem quod ambulans aut iacens: durat intentio mutatione ipsa refecta. Paulum redormio, dein ambulo, mox orationem graecam latinamve clare et intente non tam vocis causa quam stomachi lego; pariter tamen et illa firmatur. Iterum ambulo, ungor, exerceor, lavor. Cenanti mihi, si cum uxore vel paucis,

liber legitur: post cenam comoedus aut lyristes: mox cum meis ambulo, quorum in numero sunt eruditi. Ita variis sermonibus vespera extenditur et quamquam longissimus dies cito conditur. Non numquam ex hoc ordine aliqua mutantur. Nam si diu iacui vel ambulavi, post somnum demum lectionemque non vehiculo, sed quod brevius, quia velocius, equo gestor. Interveniunt amici ex proximis oppidis partemque diei ad se trahunt interdumque lasso mihi opportuna interpellatione subveniunt. Venor aliquando, sed non sine pugillaribus, ut, quamvis nihil ceperim, non nihil referam. Datur et colonis, ut videtur ipsis, non satis temporis, quorum mihi agrestes querellae litteras nostras et haec urbana opera commendant. Vale.

83. (BOOK 9. 37.)

Pliny excuses himself from being present at Paulinus' inauguration as consul, as he is engaged in rearranging the terms of tenancy on his estates.

C. PLINIUS PAULINO SUO S.

Nec tuae naturae est translaticia haec et quasi publica officia a familiaribus amicis contra ipsorum commodum exigere, et ego te constantius amo, quam ut verear ne aliter ac velim accipias, nisi te kalendis statim consulem videro, praesertim cum me necessitas locandorum praediorum plures annos ordinatura detineat, in qua mihi nova consilia sumenda sunt. Nam priore lustro, quamquam post magnas remissiones, reliqua creverunt: inde plerisque nulla iam cura minuendi aeris alieni, quod desperant posse persolvi; rapiunt etiam consumuntque quod natum est, ut qui iam putent se non sibi parcere. Occurrendum ergo augescentibus vitiis et medendum est. Medendi una ratio, si non nummo, sed partibus, locem ac deinde ex meis aliquos operis exactores custodes fructibus ponam. Et alioqui nullum iustius genus reditus, quam quod terra caelum annus refert. At hoc

magnam fidem, acres oculos, numerosas manus poscit. Experiendum tamen et quasi in veteri morbo quaelibet mutationis auxilia temptanda sunt. Vides quam non delicata me causa obire primum consulatus tui diem non sinat; quem tamen hic quoque ut praesens votis gaudio gratulatione celebrabo. Vale.

84. (BOOK 9. 39.)

Pliny gives his architect a commission to rebuild a temple of Ceres on one of his estates, and to add porticoes near it.

C. PLINIUS MUSTIO SUO S.

Haruspicum monitu reficienda est mihi aedes Cereris in praediis in melius et in maius, vetus sane et angusta, cum sit alioqui stato die frequentissima. Nam idibus Septembribus magnus e regione tota coit populus, multae res aguntur, multa vota suscipiuntur, multa redduntur. Sed nullum in proximo suffugium aut imbris aut solis. Videor ergo munifice simul religioseque facturus, si aedem quam pulcherrimam extruxero, addidero porticus aedi, illam ad usum deae, has ad hominum. Velim ergo emas quattuor marmoreas columnas, cuius tibi videbitur generis, emas marmora, quibus solum, quibus parietes excolantur. Erit etiam vel faciendum vel emendum ipsius deae signum, quia antiquum illud e ligno quibusdam sui partibus vetustate truncatum est. Quantum ad porticus, nihil interim occurrit, quod videatur istinc esse repetendum; nisi tamen ut formam secundum rationem loci scribas. Neque enim possunt circumdari templo: nam solum templi hinc flumine et abruptissimis ripis, hinc via cingitur. Est ultra viam latissimum pratum, in quo satis apte contra templum ipsum porticus explicabuntur; nisi quid tu melius inveneris, qui soles locorum difficultates arte superare. Vale.

85. (TRAI. 1.)

Pliny congratulates Trajan on his succession to the empire.

C. PLINIUS TRAIANO IMPERATORI.

Tua quidem pietas, imperator sanctissime, optaverat ut quam tardissime succederes patri. Sed di immortales festinaverunt virtutes tuas ad gubernacula rei publicae, quam susceperas, admovere. Precor ergo ut tibi et per te generi humano prospera omnia, id est digna saeculo tuo, contingant. Fortem te et hilarem, imperator optime, et privatim et publice opto.

86. (TRAI. 2.)

Pliny thanks Trajan for having granted to him (although childless) the rights of a father of a family.

C. PLINIUS TRAIANO IMPERATORI.

Exprimere, domine, verbis non possum quantum mihi gaudium attuleris, quod me dignum putasti iure trium liberorum. Quamvis enim Iuli Serviani, optimi viri tuique amantissimi, precibus indulseris, tamen etiam ex rescripto intellego libentius hoc ei te praestitisse, quia pro me rogabat. Videor ergo summam voti mei consecutus, cum inter initia felicissimi principatus tui probaveris me ad peculiarem indulgentiam tuam pertinere; eoque magis liberos concupisco, quos habere etiam illo tristissimo saeculo volui, sicut potes duobus matrimoniis meis credere. Sed di melius, qui omnia integra bonitati tuae reservarunt: maluerunt hoc potius tempore me patrem fieri, quo futurus essem et securus et felix.

87. (TRAI. 65.)

Pliny asks Trajan whether foundlings are to be considered the property of those who have been at the expense of bringing them up.

C. PLINIUS TRAIANO IMPERATORI.

Magna, domine, et ad totam provinciam pertinens quaestio est de condicione et alimentis eorum quos vocant θρεπτούς. In qua ego auditis constitutionibus principum, quia nihil inveniebam aut proprium aut universale quod ad Bithynos referretur, consulendum te existimavi, quid observari velles, neque putavi posse me in eo quod auctoritatem tuam posceret exemplo esse contentum. Recitabatur autem apud me edictum quod dicebatur divi Augusti ad Anniam pertinens; recitatae et epistulae divi Vespasiani ad Lacedaemonios et divi Titi ad eosdem [Achaeos] et Domitiani ad Avidium Nigrinum et Armenium Brocchum proconsules, item ad Lacedaemonios. Quae ideo tibi non misi, quia et parum emendata et quaedam non certae fidei videbantur, et quia vera et emendata in scriniis tuis esse credebam.

88. (TRAI. 66.)

Trajan can find no general rescript of his predecessors on the subject of the foregoing letter; but himself decides in favour of the children's freedom.

TRAIANUS PLINIO.

Quaestio ista quae pertinet ad eos qui liberi nati expositi, deinde sublati a quibusdam et in servitute educati sunt saepe tractata est, nec quicquam invenitur in commentariis eorum principum qui ante me fuerunt, quod ad omnes provincias sit constitutum. Epistulae sane sunt Domitiani ad Avidium Nigrinum et Armenium Brocchum, quae fortasse debeant observari, sed inter eas provincias de quibus rescripsit inter-

missa est Bithynia. Et ideo nec adsertionem denegandam iis qui ex eius modi causa in libertatem vindicabuntur puto neque ipsam libertatem redimendam pretio alimentorum.

89. (TRAI. 74.)

Pliny sends to Trajan one Callidromus who had escaped to Bithynia after a long slavery in the court of Parthia.

C. PLINIUS TRAIANO IMPERATORI.

Appuleius, domine, miles, qui est in statione Nicomedensi, scripsit mihi quendam nomine Callidromum, cum detineretur a Maximo et Dionysio pistoribus, quibus operas suas locaverat, confugisse ad tuam statuam perductumque ad magistratus indicasse servisse aliquando Laberio Maximo captumque a Susago in Moesia et a Decibalo muneri missum Pacoro, Parthiae regi, pluribusque annis in ministerio eius fuisse, deinde fugisse atque ita in Nicomediam pervenisse. Quem ego perductum ad me, cum eadem narrasset, mittendum ad te putavi; quod paulo tardius feci, dum requiro gemmam, quam sibi habentem imaginem Pacori et quibus ornatus fuisset subtractam indicabat. Volui enim hanc quoque, si inveniri potuisset, simul mittere, sicut glebulam misi, quam se ex Parthico metallo attulisse dicebat. Signata est anulo meo, cuius est aposphragisma quadriga.

90. (TRAI. 96.)

Pliny asks how he ought to deal with the Christians, describes the method which he has hitherto followed, relates what he has been able to learn of their life and observances, and adds that, though the evil has spread rapidly, it may be, and is being, checked.

C. PLINIUS TRAIANO IMPERATORI.

Sollemne est mihi, domine, omnia de quibus dubito ad te referre. Quis enim potest melius vel cunctationem meam

regere vel ignorantiam instruere? Cognitionibus de Christianis interfui numquam: ideo nescio quid et quatenus aut puniri soleat aut quaeri. Nec mediocriter haesitavi, sitne aliquod discrimen aetatum, an quamlibet teneri nihil a robustioribus differant; detur paenitentiae venia, an ei qui omnino Christianus fuit desisse non prosit; nomen ipsum, si flagitiis careat, an flagitia cohaerentia nomini puniantur. Interim *in* iis qui ad me tamquam Christiani deferebantur hunc sum secutus modum. Interrogavi ipsos an essent Christiani: confitentes iterum ac tertio interrogavi supplicium minatus: perseverantes duci iussi. Neque enim dubitabam, qualecumque esset quod faterentur, pertinaciam certe et inflexibilem obstinationem debere puniri. Fuerunt alii similis amentiae, quos, quia cives Romani erant, adnotavi in urbem remittendos. Mox ipso tractatu, ut fieri solet, diffundente se crimine plures species inciderunt. Propositus est libellus sine auctore multorum nomina continens. Qui negabant esse se Christianos aut fuisse, cum praeeunte me deos appellarent et imagini tuae, quam propter hoc iusseram cum simulacris numinum adferri, ture ac vino supplicarent, praeterea male dicerent Christo, quorum nihil posse cogi dicuntur qui sunt re vera Christiani, dimittendos esse putavi. Alii ab indice nominati esse se Christianos dixerunt et mox negaverunt; fuisse quidem, sed desisse, quidam ante triennium, quidam ante plures annos, non nemo etiam ante viginti. Hi quoque omnes et imaginem tuam deorumque simulacra venerati sunt et Christo male dixerunt. Adfirmabant autem hanc fuisse summam vel culpae suae vel erroris, quod essent soliti stato die ante lucem convenire carmenque Christo quasi deo dicere secum invicem seque sacramento non in scelus aliquod obstringere, sed ne furta, ne latrocinia, ne adulteria committerent, ne fidem fallerent, ne depositum appellati abnegarent: quibus peractis morem sibi discedendi fuisse, rursusque *coeundi* ad capiendum cibum, promiscuum tamen et

innoxium; quod ipsum facere desisse post edictum meum, quo secundum mandata tua hetaerias esse vetueram. Quo magis necessarium credidi ex duabus ancillis, quae ministrae dicebantur, quid esset veri et per tormenta quaerere. Nihil aliud inveni quam superstitionem pravam immodicam. Ideo dilata cognitione ad consulendum te decucurri. Visa est enim mihi res digna consultatione, maxime propter periclitantium numerum. Multi enim omnis aetatis, omnis ordinis, utriusque sexus etiam, vocantur in periculum et vocabuntur. Neque civitates tantum sed vicos etiam atque agros superstitionis istius contagio pervagata est; quae videtur sisti et corrigi posse. Certe satis constat prope iam desolata templa coepisse celebrari et sacra sollemnia diu intermissa repeti pastumque venire victimarum, cuius adhuc rarissimus emptor inveniebatur. Ex quo facile est opinari, quae turba hominum emendari possit, si sit paenitentiae locus.

91. (TRAI. 97.)

Trajan approves of Pliny's conduct. The Christians are to be punished if convicted, but they are not to be sought for, they are to be pardoned if they sacrifice, and no anonymous charge against them is to be admitted.

TRAIANUS PLINIO.

Actum quem debuisti, mi Secunde, in excutiendis causis eorum qui Christiani ad te delati fuerant secutus es. Neque enim in universum aliquid quod quasi certam formam habeat constitui potest. Conquirendi non sunt: si deferantur et arguantur, puniendi sunt, ita tamen ut qui negaverit se Christianum esse idque re ipsa manifestum fecerit, id est supplicando dis nostris, quamvis suspectus in praeteritum, veniam ex paenitentia impetret. Sine auctore vero propositi libelli *in* nullo crimine locum habere debent. Nam et pessimi exempli nec nostri saeculi est.

NOTES.

Ep. 2.—Some editors think that the book which Pliny alludes to in this letter is a copy of a speech which he made before the Centumviri, the court in which he pleaded in behalf of Attia Viriola who claimed to inherit her father's property. He mentions this speech in Ep. 62 'Dedimus vela indignationi, dedimus irae, dedimus dolori: et in amplissimâ causâ, quasi magno mari, pluribus ventis sumus vecti.' His friends, he says, considered this to hold the chief place among his speeches, as the De Coronâ among those of Demosthenes. Unfortunately, except the Panegyric on Trajan, we have no specimen of Pliny's orations.

4. **Eodem ζήλῳ**, 'with so strong an emulation,' i.e. of Demosthenes.

5. **Demosthenen semper tuum, Calvum nuper meum**; 'Demosthenes who has always been your model, Calvus whom I have lately taken as mine.'

C. Licinius Macer Calvus is mentioned by Cicero (who was twenty-four years older) as a young orator who would have been eminent for eloquence if he had lived, but he died in his thirty-fifth or thirty-sixth year. Cicero thought his style exact and polished, but wanting in force, and fitted for a learned audience, not for the multitude. Pliny would hardly have joined him with Demosthenes if he had agreed with this estimate; and Quintilian speaks of it as appearing to many too unfavourable, since Calvus could be forcible as well as elegant; 'est et sancta et gravis oratio, et castigata, et frequenter vehemens quoque' Quintil. Inst. Orat. 10. 1. Cic. de Claris Orator. 81; Fam. 15. 21. Smith's Biog. Dict.

6. **Dumtaxat figuris orationis**; 'at least in the rhetorical forms of the speech.' 'Figurae' are not merely what we call figures of speech, metaphors, or ornaments, but include also the forms in which the sentences were cast, and even their arrangement; answering partly to Aristotle's *σχήματα τῆς λέξεως*, Poet. 19. 7, Rhet. 3. 8, 1; or more properly to his *λέξις*, Rhet. 2. 9. Repetition of words, exclamations, questions, apostrophes, examples, in fact all methods of enforcing the subject and moving the hearer, are spoken of as 'figurae' by Quintilian and Cicero. Demosthenes is particularly powerful in the use of such turns of expression. Quintil. Inst. Orat. 9. 1. Cic. de Orat. 3. 52 and 53.

7. **Aequus**, sc. 'Jupiter.' Virg. Aen. 6. 129.

9. **In contentione dicendi**, 'in a vehement style of address.' 'Contentio sermonis' is opposed to 'lenitas.' 'Tu iamdiu multo dicis remissius et lenius

quam solebas; neque minus haec tamen tua gravissimi sermonis lenitas, quam illa summa vis et contentio probatur' Cic. de Or. 1. 60. 'Contentiosa oratio,' Bk. 2. 19, is different, and means a contentious speech.

12. **ληκύθους**, lit. flasks for oil or artists' colours. Hence **λήκυθοι** and the Latin equivalent 'ampullae' were used for rhetorical ornaments and exaggerations which writers and speakers employed to deck their language. Cp. Cic. Att. 1. 14, and Hor. Ep. 6. 3, 14. Pliny calls these ornaments **Marci nostri ληκύθους** because Cicero in the passage quoted had confessed to their use.

14. **Nec est quod putes.** Arrianus is not however to think that, because he makes this stipulation in favour of ornament, he therefore wants 'venia' instead of 'emendatio.'

15. **Quo magis intendam limam tuam,** 'that I may urge you to more searching criticism;' lit. 'that I may give more force to your file.' 'Lima' is a common metaphor for care in polishing verse or prose. Martial (speaking of Pliny's criticism on his book) says,

'Quem censoria cum meo Severo
Docti lima momorderit Secundi' Mart. 5. 80.

17. **Fortasse errori nostro,** 'what is perhaps my folly,' namely his intention to publish.

18. **Album calculum adiicere,** 'to approve.' Cp.

'Mos erat antiquis niveis atrisque lapillis,
His damnare reos, illis absolvere culpae'
Ov. Met. 15. 41.

Ep. 3. 1. **Suburbanum,** sc. 'rus vel praedium.'

3. **Euripus.** This name, specially applied to the strait between Euboea and Boeotia, was used both in Greek and Latin of any narrow canal or conduit, though Cicero implies that in his time this use was thought grandiloquent. 'Ductus vero aquarum, quos isti nilos et euripos vocant' Cic. Leg. 2. 1.

4. **Serviens lacus.** 'Serviens' carries out the metaphor of **subiectus.** Here it means 'yielding itself to the view,' and so serving to enhance the attractions of the villa. Cp. 'Piscinam quae fenestris servit et subiacet' Bk. 5. 6, and 'Diversis servit sua terra fenestris' Stat. Silv. 2. 2, 75.

5. **Gestatio.** This was an avenue for exercise on horseback, in a carriage, or in a litter. It was sometimes covered. Cp.

'Porticus in qua
Gestetur dominus quoties pluit' Juv. 7. 178.

6. **Triclinia illa popularia, illa paucorum,** 'those dining-rooms for large parties, and the others for small ones.' 'Triclinium' was extended to mean the room for dining in, as well as the couch for dining on. 'Popularia' in this sense is justified by the similar use of 'populus' simply to express a large number. Cp. 'Populo natorum . . . meorum,' Ov. Met. 6. 198, quoted by Gierig.

7. **Possidentne te,** sc. **cubicula.** He means, 'do you stay at home and only move from the blue bed to the brown?'

15. **Exclude.** So Keil for 'excude' which has no MSS. authority. The expression is either borrowed from birds hatching their young (Lucr. 5. 799), or = 'claude.' Cp. 'Excludit (sc. claudit) volumen Genethliacon Lucani' Stat. Silv. 2. Praef.

18. **Tu modo .... fueris.** 'I pray you to endeavour to rate yourself at that value, which others will certainly put upon you, if only first of all you attain it in your own estimation.' An obscure and fancifully turned entreaty that Caninius will rely on his ability to command literary success.

Ep. 4. 4. **In proximo,** 'close by.' 'Proximum' governed by various prepositions is frequent in Pliny to express proximity. Cp. Epp. 20. 38, and 41. 12

5. **Pugillares,** sc. 'tabulae.' The word 'pugillares,' a name frequently given to tablets covered with wax, is derived from 'pugillus' (handful), because they were small enough to be held in the hand.

Ep. 5. 1. **Mirum est ..... non constet;** 'it is wonderful what a rational account may be given of single days spent in the city, while it cannot be of a number of days together.' Cp. 'Confido laetioris stili constare rationem' Ep. 32. 38.

10. **In Laurentino meo,** in his Laurentine villa, described Ep. 21.

19. **Quam multa invenitis,** 'how many topics you suggest.'

Ep. 6. 3. **Euphrates:** see Life of Pliny, p. ix.

15. **Latitudinem,** 'copiousness.' There seems to be a play on the sound and etymology of Plato's name (πλάτος).

24. **Etiam cum persuaserit.** His mode of convincing is so attractive that one wishes him to go on even after one is convinced.

31. **Officio.** Pliny was 'Praefectus aerarii' in the year 99, the second year of Trajan, and it is to the engagements of this office that he here alludes.

32. **Subnoto libellos,** 'I make comments on petitions.' Libellus is frequently used in this sense:—

> 'Sed iam supplicibus Dominum lassare libellis
> Desine' Mart. 8. 31.

Pliny uses it elsewhere as a writ of accusation. Ep. 68. 68.

Conficio tabulas, 'I make up (the public) accounts.' The treasury had been successively under the care of praefects, then of some of the praetors, and afterwards of the quaestors again, which was a return to the older system of the republic. Nero chose praefects for the office in order to have men of greater experience than the quaestors, who might be only twenty-five years of age.

33. **Inlitteratissimas litteras,** 'with nothing literary about them.' Cp. 'Rationes legebam invitus et cursim, aliis enim chartis, aliis sum litteris initiatus' Ep. 48. 28.

43. **Invideo aliis bono:** see on Ep. 18. 3.

Ep. 7. Pliny mentions Corellius elsewhere with the highest respect and affection, as his adviser, friend, and guide, who had introduced him into public

life, and, though much older than himself, had shewn the warmest interest in his success. On two occasions he relates that he had recourse to him for advice in important professional matters, esteeming him one of the most experienced and wisest lawyers of his time. From this letter we learn that Corellius survived Domitian (who was murdered Sept. 17, A.D. 96), and he afterwards spoke highly of Pliny to the emperor Nerva. On his deathbed he mentions Pliny to his daughter as one of the friends she could most rely on, and both she and her aunt Corellia found him ready to do them kindness. Epp. 40 and 64.

1. **Si iactura dicenda est.** The word 'iactura' from its application to everyday losses of money, property, &c., had material associations, which to Pliny's refinement made it unsuitable to use of the death of such a friend as Corellius.

4. **Utcumque**: see on Ep. 46. 7.

12. **Tot pignora, sc. filiam, uxorem,** &c. In post-Augustan Latin 'pignora' was applied to all near relations, not merely to children, as the English phrase 'pledges.' Cp. Paneg. 37.

21. **Isti latroni,** Domitian, whose cruelty became more atrocious in the few last years of his reign. See Merivale, c. 62.

29. **Fecisset quod optabat;** i.e. he would have helped to kill Domitian. 'Si,' as here, is often omitted before a supposition. The subjunctive is used here because the supposition is false or imaginary. See the distinction between the sense of the indic. and subj. (when 'si' is omitted), as explained by Madvig, § 442 a, Obs. 2.

39. **Hispulla,** possibly Calpurnia Hispulla, aunt of Pliny's wife Calpurnia (Ep. 41), in which case there would have been a connection as well as a close friendship between Pliny and the house of Corellius.

46. **Valetudinem,** *ill* health.

Superstitibus suis, abl. abs.

54. **Quae audierim nunquam,** 'such as I have never heard.' The subjunctive is used thus, in relative propositions, to complete the idea of a certain quality. Here the adjective 'nova' partly expresses the idea; 'quae audierim' is subjoined in order to define it more precisely. Observe that in the next sentence the indic. is used (**quae audivi**), because it is not a quality or a class, but particular things that are signified. See Madvig, § 364.

We may remark that Pliny seems to have considered it praiseworthy in Corellius to escape continued suffering by suicide. The practice had become quite common at this time; but it would be a mistake to think that it was countenanced by the Stoics. Mr. Merivale remarks that 'we need not pass too austere a judgment on the sick and aged who thus courted present relief from suffering, and even made their escape from a painful existence with a show of dignity and fortitude. But we must guard ourselves against confounding such ordinary mortals with the genuine patriots and sages, who proved themselves generally superior to this morbid intemperance.' It was,

he thinks, a mere fashion, the result of satiety and weariness, or, at best, of false reasoning, not of political indignation and hopelessness. See Merivale's Hist. Emp. c. 62.

Ep. 8. 1. Magnum proventum poetarum, 'a great crop,' or 'abundance, of poets.' The original use of the word is of the growth of corn, fruits, or increase of animals:

'Proventuque oneret sulcos, atque horrea vincat'

Virg. Georg. 2. 518.

The number of persons who employed or amused themselves with literature at Rome, in the time of Pliny, is very remarkable. The Roman nobles were highly educated, and the jealousy of the Emperors, depriving the aristocracy of active interest in public affairs, turned their thoughts the more towards literary exertion. Almost every distinguished man among them wrote either prose or verse; and as the remembrance of freedom became fainter, the style of these compositions improved in a certain artificial polish and exactness, while they became less vigorous and daring in thought. Mr. Merivale contrasts in this respect the writings of the Flavian age (A.D. 70–96) with those of the previous generations; Hist. Emp. c. 54 and c. 64.

2. Quo non recitaret aliquis. The subj. is the proper mood of dependent relative clauses, (1) when a *quality* is to be expressed, belonging to the subject of the principal sentence, as 'non is es qui gloriere;' (2) when it is stated that there is, or is not, something of which the relative clause may be asserted, as 'nemo est orator qui se Demosthenis similem esse nolit' Cic. de Opt. Gen. Or. 2. Madvig, §§ 364, 365.

It was the custom of poets and historians at Rome to read their works aloud to a select circle of friends in their own houses, or to larger audiences in public rooms hired for the purpose. Pliny makes frequent allusions to these recitations, and considered it a duty of friendship to attend them. It was not so usual to recite orations, and he excuses himself on one occasion for thus reading a speech which he had previously delivered, in order to profit by the remarks of the hearers before publishing it. Bks. 7. 17 and 8. 12. Juvenal speaks bitterly of the tediousness of some of the poets (1. 1–13); and elsewhere of the interest felt when eminent authors, like Statius, recited:

'Curritur ad vocem iucundam et carmen amicae
Thebaidos, laetam fecit quum Statius urbem'

Juv. 7. 82.

3. Proferunt se, 'bring themselves forward.' Used by Seneca of self-taught men, 'quibus ex se ipsis impetus fuit, qui seipsos protulerunt' Ep. 52. Also by Pliny, 'materiam se proferendi' Ep. 77. 7, 'an opportunity for bringing himself into notice.' And by Tacitus, 'Montanum, quia protulerit ingenium extorrem agi' Ann. 16. 29.

Stationibus, places of public resort, for conversation or amusement. 'Domos stationesque circumeo' Bk. 2. 9.

'Convictus, thermae, stationes, omne theatrum
De Rutilo' Juv. 11. 4.

13. **Nonianum.** M. Servilius Nonianus was celebrated both as an historian and an orator. When relating his death (A.D. 60), Tacitus speaks of him as 'diu foro, mox tradendis rebus Romanis celebris et elegantia vitae' Ann. 14. 19. Quintilian, who had heard him, considered him a man of marked genius; but his style, though rich, was somewhat too diffuse for history: 'Clari vir ingenii, et sententiis creber, sed minus pressus quam historiae auctoritas postulat' 10. 1. He was consul A.D. 35, under Tiberius.

16. **Quia non perdiderit.** The subj. does not necessarily follow 'quia.' It expresses not the actual or objective cause of the complaint, but the idea which was the ground of it, and is used here with a delicate irony: 'they complain that they have lost a day on the ground that—they have not lost it.'

20. **Ut non simul et nos amet.** 'Ut non' is used thus after negative propositions to denote an inevitable consequence. 'There is no one who loves literature, but he must also love me.' 'Ruere illa non possunt, ut haec non eodem labefacta motu concidant' Cic. pro L. Man. 7. Madvig, § 440. 3.

24. **Non auditor .... creditor,** 'to have been there not to listen but to put them under an obligation.' Pliny shows more delicacy than Juvenal, who wants an equivalent for his attendance: 'Nunquamne reponam' Juv. 1. 1.

Ep. 8. Junius Mauricus, to whom this letter is addressed, was (like his brother Arulenus Rusticus) a man of courage and independence of character. He was one of the set of good men banished by Domitian at the close of his reign, when his brother Rusticus was put to death. Even towards Vespasian he had shown his boldness, in requesting that the emperor's journals might be inspected in order to bring the informers to justice. He returned from banishment in the reign of Nerva, and used similar freedom towards him. 'Quo viro nihil firmius, nihil verius' is Pliny's description of him (Ep. 42. 9). This letter and another (Ep. 22), answering an enquiry made by Mauricus for a tutor for his brother's orphan children, show the care with which he attended to their interests.

8. **Arulено Rustico.** Rusticus is mentioned by Tacitus in his account of the murder of Thrasea by Nero, as then an ardent young man who would have interposed his veto, as tribune, on the decree of the senate condemning Thrasea, unless the latter had forbidden him, as it would only have led to his own destruction. In the civil wars that followed Nero's death, Rusticus was praetor when Vespasian's forces advanced on Rome, and being sent by Vitellius to offer them conditions of peace, was wounded and nearly killed. With others of the best men in Rome he was put to death by Domitian, for writing in praise of Thrasea. For a general view of the sufferings of Pliny's friends see on Ep. 28.

12. **A vobis,** the brothers above mentioned, Junius Mauricus and Arulenus Rusticus.

13. **Brixia**, Brescia, eighteen miles west of the Lago di Garda (Benacus).

Nostra Italia, sc. 'Italia transpadana,' Pliny's native country. Cp. 'Veronensibus nostris' 6. 34.

16. **Equestris ordinis princeps**, 'a chief man of the equestrian order.' It does not appear to denote an office. The term 'princeps iuventutis' was different, and was given at this time to princes of the emperor's family Tac. Ann. 1. 3.

Adlectus. The word was used technically of persons chosen to fill up vacant places in the senate or other orders.

17. **Praetorios**, 'men of the rank of praetor;' not necessarily who had held the office of praetor. The ornaments and rank of praetor, sometimes of consul or of quaestor, were granted occasionally as honorary distinctions. Such distinctions gave the right of a seat in the senate. Cp. 'ornamenta praetoria' Bk. 7. 29. Tac. Ann. 12. 21.

18. **Huic nostrae ... dignitati**, 'this (shall I call it parade or) dignity of mine:' namely, that of senator. Pliny was unwilling to own to himself how little of its ancient power the senate now retained, and threw himself into his duties as heartily as if the republic still existed. The senate had been thinned by the cruelties of Nero, and by the civil wars that followed. Vespasian, after the example of Augustus and Claudius, caused an enquiry to be made into the fortunes and characters of the senators, degrading some and appointing others, and he extended this measure also to the knights. Many of his new senators were provincials, a class of men who had been first admitted by Julius Caesar. Such persons resided at Rome, and were not usually allowed to return home without express leave. Such measures were exceedingly useful, both in interesting the provinces in the affairs of government, and in infusing new blood into the senate, since the provincial senators were men of simpler habits than the Roman nobles. Tac. Ann. 3. 55; 11. 25. Suet. Vesp. 11.

20. **Municipio Patavino**, 'the free town of Padua,' best known as Livy's birthplace. Pliny's remarks on the character of the inhabitants of North Italy is interesting, as from his writings he appears himself to have retained many of the pure and simple tastes which marked his countrymen.

Loci mores, exemplified by the noble Thrasea Paetus, also a native of Padua. Tacitus calls him 'virtus ipsa' Ann. 16. 21.

27. **Iam pro se**, &c. 'Iam' is the emphatic word. He already holds a distinguished position, and will give you no trouble in assisting him to obtain office.

31. **Nescio an adiiciam**, 'I think I *may* add.' See Madvig, § 453.

32. **Cum imaginor**, 'when I picture to myself.' The word is used several times by Pliny, but is not common in earlier writers. Epp. 18. 19 and §4. 11.

35. **Census.** For admission both to the equestrian and senatorian rank a certain fortune was necessary. For the knights it was 400 sestertia, for the senators it was fixed by Augustus at 1200 sestertia, i.e. 1200,000 sestertii.

'Si quadringentis sex septem millia desunt
Plebs eris' Hor. Ep. 1. 1. 58.

37. **His,** sc. **posteris.**

38. **Condicionibus,** alliance in marriage. Cp. 'Inter altissimas condiciones' Ep. 6. 28.

Hic quoque ponendus est calculus, 'this too must be taken into account:' literally, 'this counter must be placed.' 'Parem calculum ponere,' 'to pay an equivalent' Ep. 45. 1. 'Omnes, quos ego movi, calculos pone' Bk. 2. 19, 'take into account every argument that I have suggested.'

43. **Onerare,** 'to overload.'

Ep. 10. 1. Promittis; understand 'te venturum esse.' The ellipsis is not unusual. 'Ad cenam alio promisi foras' Plaut. Stich. 4. 2. 16. 'Ad cenam mihi promitte' Phaedr. 4. 24. 15.

4. **Nam hanc quoque** ..... **ferculo,** 'you will have to reckon in your account this too (nivem), which melted in the dish.'

5. **Betacei.** Properly an adjective, but used, like 'malvaceus' from 'malva,' as a diminutive substantive for 'beta.' Perhaps agreeing with 'pedes' understood: 'beet-root.'

6. **Bulbi,** edible roots (as onions and others); it is uncertain of what exact kind.

Audisses comoedos vel lectorem. Such amusements at meals were common among the Romans, and with Pliny himself. 'Cenanti mihi, si cum uxore vel paucis, liber legitur: post cenam comoedus aut lyristes' Ep. 82. 19.

'Ecce inter pocula quaerunt
Romulidae saturi quid dia poemata narrent' Pers. 1. 30.

But see on Ep. 24. 36.

8. **Gaditanas,** 'dancers from Cadiz.'

13. **Incautius,** 'with less constraint.'

Mihi semper excusa, 'don't come near me again.'

Ep. 11. Erucius, to whom this letter is addressed, is probably Sextus Erucius Clarus, of whom Pliny speaks in the highest terms in Bk. 2. 9. The family of the Clari at this time were eminent not only in rank, but also for virtue and talents. The uncle of Sextus was Septicius, to whom Pliny dedicates his letters (1. 1), 'the most truthful, single-minded, candid, faithful of men;' and Marcius the father of Sextus was a man of uprightness and ability; Bk. 2. 9. Sextus himself, for whom Pliny obtained from Trajan the 'latus clavus,' giving him admission into the senate, was praefect of the city and twice consul: he was remarkable for his devotion to ancient literature. A. Gellius, 6. 6; 13. 17, quoted in Smith's Dict. Biog. This accomplished family formed part of that circle of literary friends in which Pliny lived: they seem moreover to have been generally men of high character in public and private.

1. **Hunc dico nostrum,** 'I mean my friend Pompeius;' perhaps inserted because there were others of the same name. Nothing more is known of

the works of Saturninus than may be gathered from this letter, but there are epistles addressed to him, Bk. 5. 21; 7. 7 and 15; 9. 38.

5. **Sive meditata sive subita proferret,** 'whether he spoke from preparation or extempore.'

6. **Aptae crebraeque sententiae.** 'Sententia' had a technical meaning in writers upon style, and is defined by the author of the treatise 'ad Herennium' (c. 2) as 'Oratio sumpta de vita, quae aut quid sit, aut quid esse oporteat in vita, breviter ostendit,' hence the phrase 'maxima sententiarum,' 'a maxim.' Quintilian classes 'sententiae' among the 'lumina' of a speech, and from his examples it appears that he means not only general maxims, but other pointed sayings, briefly expressed. The orators of this age, he says, were too fond of filling their speeches with these 'sayings,' which should be more sparingly used. 'Ego vero haec lumina orationis velut oculos quosdam esse eloquentiae credo. Sed neque oculos esse toto corpore velim, ne caetera membra officium suum perdant: et, si necesse sit, veterem illum horrorem dicendi malim, quam istam novam licentiam. Sed patet media quaedam via' Quint. 8. 5.

7. **Antiqua:** opposed to modern or newly coined words. The older words were considered more expressive (propria) than modern ones; as the use of words of Saxon origin in English instead of those of Latin origin is thought a mark of vigour.

9. **Si retractentur,** 'if they should be afterwards read;' literally, 'handled again.' The orations of Pompeius were pleasant both to hear and read.

13. **Contionibus,** speeches related (or invented) in his history; **orationibus,** those which he himself delivered in pleading.

14. **Pressior .... adductior,** 'more brief, compressed, and concise.'

16. **Catullus aut Calvus.** For Calvus as an orator, see note on Ep. 2. 5. Nothing but a few small fragments of his poems remain: but in spite of Horace's sneer,

'Nil praeter Calvum et doctus cantare Catullum'

Sat. 1. 10. 19.

they were highly esteemed by the ancients for grace and wit.

Catullus was a contemporary of Calvus, having been born at Verona, five years before him, B.C. 87.

18. **Data opera,** 'on purpose.'

21. **Metro solutum;** i.e. they had the elegance of Plautus or Terence, without the metre.

22. **Qui illa aut componat,** 'because he either composes them or,' &c. The subjunctive in the relative proposition expresses the reason.

25. **Antequam scribam.** The subjunctive is found with 'antequam' in speaking of a thing which *usually* happens before something else. 'Qui quotidie antequam pronuntient, vocem excitant' Cic. de Or. 1. 59. So 'antequam scirem' may be explained in the second line of this letter. Madvig, § 360 c.

26. **Non tamquam eundem.** There is always something fresh about him.

28. **An . . . . . conquireremus ?** 'An' cannot introduce (like 'num' or 'nonne') a simple independent question. Here it introduces a question of a 'supplementary kind, an inquiry what must be the case otherwise, in case some objection is made to the foregoing,' i.e. in this instance to the assumption that an author's being alive ought not to stand in the way of his honour. See Madvig. § 453. 'An' may therefore be rendered 'or.'

30. **Imagines.** Not only were statues of public men frequent in cities and private houses in Italy (cp. Bk. 1. 17), but the great men of literature were honoured in a similar way. Caligula (Suet. Calig. 34) thought of banishing the busts of Virgil and Livy from *all* libraries, which proves that they must have been common.

Ep. 12. Tranquillus, to whom this letter is addressed, is the historian Caius Suetonius Tranquillus, author of the lives of the Caesars. He was younger than Pliny, perhaps by ten years or more; his father fought at the battle of Bedriacum, at which Otho was defeated, A.D. 69. The son was a literary man, and shunned public offices; at least we hear of his declining a military tribuneship which Pliny could have procured him (Bk. 3. 8). The latter speaks of him, in a letter to Trajan, as a man of the highest integrity and of learning. Trai. 95. He was the author of a number of works on antiquities, biography, and criticism, and as 'Magister Epistolarum' under Hadrian, had access, no doubt, to important documents for his biographical work. Smith's Dict. Biog.

3. **καὶ γάρ.** Hom. Il. 1. 63.

4. **Refert tamen . . . . somniare,** 'but it is a material point whether it is your habit to dream things that will turn out true or exactly the reverse.' The ancients had a superstition that some dreams were to be interpreted by contraries: to be beaten or killed portended sometimes a piece of good fortune. Apul. Met. 4. p. 155, quoted by Corte.

7. **Iuni Pastoris,** perhaps that Pastor, to whom Mart. Ep. 9. 23 is addressed.

8. **Socrus,** Pompeia Celerina (Ep. 1. 4), mother of Pliny's first (or second) wife, not of Calpurnia. See on Ep. 41.

9. **Eram acturus adulescentulus.** He began to plead in his nineteenth year; and from what he says below, this dream must have related to one of his early causes.

Quadruplici iudicio, 'the four courts.' These formed the tribunal mentioned a few lines below as the **iudicium centumvirale,** the court in which Pliny usually practised, and which he calls his 'arena.' It was under the presidency of the praetor, and was divided into four sets of 'iudices' ('concilia' or 'iudicia'), who however sometimes sat together in one building and heard the same causes. From other letters of Pliny we learn that these causes were often on trifling or uninteresting matters of business; frequently concerning wills. Cicero (de Or. 1. 38) mentions a number of the

kinds of cases tried before the 'centumviri.' They differed from the other judges in being a definite body or 'collegium,' and are said to have derived their name from being chosen three from each of the thirty-five tribes, making 105 originally. Augustus however enlarged the court, and it contained 180 judges. Very young men appear to have practised in it, and Pliny complains of the way in which the pleadings were conducted. He however continued to plead in it occasionally in the time of Trajan, or perhaps later, and was pleased with the crowded audiences which listened to him. Ep. 20 and 62. Smith's Dict. Antiq.

11. **Caesaris**, Domitian.

Quae singula, 'which separately,' i. e. any one of which.

13. **εἰς οἰωνὸς**. Hom. Il. 12. 243.

14. **Nam mihi patria**, &c. He felt his loyalty as much engaged to the cause of Pastor, as to his country.

20. **Stropham**, 'excuse.' 'Remotis strophis ac fucis' Sen. Ep. 26.

Agamque .... possis. 'I will so plead your cause (asking that your suit may be delayed) that you may be able to plead it yourself at the time you wish to.'

21. **Est enim ... fuit**, 'your case certainly is different from mine:' no delay was possible in the court in which I pleaded; it is in yours (istud).

Ep. 13. 4. Praevaricatio. Observe that 'praevaricatio' is the predicate. The word means the betrayal of his cause by an advocate, and was used most properly of the accuser, but also of the defendant. Pliny frequently uses it in its proper sense, as in Bk. 3. 9 'Accidit enim res contraria et nova, ut accusatore praevaricationis damnato rea absolveretur.' Cicero (Fam. 8. 11) uses 'praevaricator publicae causae' for one who culpably neglects public interests. It is derived from 'varus,' and a ploughman who makes a crooked furrow is said 'praevaricari' by Pliny the elder, who adds 'inde translatum hoc crimen in forum' H. N. 18. 49. Cp. expression borrowed from turf phraseology 'not to run straight.'

9. **Auctoritatibus**, 'on the support of authorities, such as Lysias,' &c. Instr. ablative.

10. **Lysiae.** Lysias is likened to Cato by Cicero (Brut. 16), who says of both, 'Acuti sunt, elegantes, faceti, breves.' He wrote a great number of orations for others to use, of which two only are said to have been unsuccessful. He was born at Athens B. C. 458. Thirty-five of his orations are extant, besides fragments of others. Of those of Cato, which were almost equally numerous, only fragments remain. Cicero, who had read more than 150 of them, praises them highly, especially for vigour and weight, but says that even in his time few persons read, or even knew them at all, and admits a certain roughness of style in them. Brut. 17. Smith's Dict. Biog.

11. **Sane**: used here in its concessive sense, 'it is true that.'

12. **Hyperiden.** He was a friend of Demosthenes; only fragments of his orations are extant.

13. **Pollionem.** C. Asinius Pollio, the friend of Horace and Virgil, had

a high place among Roman orators ('Insigne moestis praesidium reis' Hor. Od. 2. 1, 13). Quintilian praises him for imagination, diligence, vigour and skill, but places him far below Cicero in the brilliant and pleasing qualities of style 'nitore et iucunditate.' He died in the eightieth year of his age, A.D. 4. None of his works remain.

Caelium. M. Caelius Rufus was a younger contemporary of Cicero, having been born B.C. 82, the same year and day as Licinius Calvus. He was a man of talent and eloquence, but extravagant and unprincipled. He was defended by Cicero (pro Caelio) when accused of attempting murder, and was afterwards one of Cicero's correspondents (Fam. 8). Seneca calls him 'orator iracundissimus' (de Ira 3. 8); and the author of the Dial. de Orat. (21) ranks him with Caesar, Calvus, and others, as an orator, although considering him wanting in grace. His speeches have not come down to us. Smith's Dict. Biog.

23. **Inconprehensibilis et lubricus,** 'hard to lay hold of, and slippery in argument.'

27. **In quibus .... indicatur,** 'in which a short, bare notification of certain charges is expressed under mere heads.' He refers to Cicero's answer to Postumius. After saying 'Respondebo igitur Postumio primum,' Pro Mur. 27 sub. fin., he omits all the particulars of his recrimination. The speech for Varenus is lost.

Subscriptio was properly the signing of the name of the plaintiff, or a party in the suit, to the charge: then, the accusation itself. The verb is used in its proper sense in Ep. 44. 24, 'cum caeteris subscripsit centumvirale iudicium,' where see note.

30. **Se ... perorasse,** 'that he had pleaded out the whole cause alone, in the ancient manner.' Until the time of Pompey there was no restriction on the time a speaker might employ. 'Nemo inter paucissimas horas perorare cogebatur, et liberae comperendinationes erant, et modum dicendi sibi quisque sumebat, et numerus neque dierum neque patronorum finiebatur' Dial. de Orat. 38. Pliny complains (Ep. 52) that speeches had become too short, in his time. Cicero's speech for Cornelius is lost, except fragments.

31. **Ne dubitare possimus ... coartasse,** 'so that we cannot doubt that he compressed.'

36. **Actio** is the speech as delivered in court. **Oratio** the speech as planned and composed before delivery.

39. **Extemporales figurae,** 'extemporaneous turns of expression.' 'Figurae' used as in Ep. 2. 6. 'Extemporalis' is used by Quintilian, but not by Cicero.

41. **Quemnam? recte admones: Polyclitum esse dicebant.** Cicero pretends to interrupt himself, and to ask his solicitor who the statuary was. In Verr. 2. 4, 3.

60. **Iugulum statim video,** &c. This is mentioned by Quintilian as a common metaphor among pleaders. 'Caeterum allegoria parvis quoque ingeniis, et quotidiano sermoni, frequentissime servit: nam illa, in agendis

causis iam detrita, *pedem conferre*, et *iugulum petere*, et *sanguinem mittere*, inde sunt: nec offendunt tamen' Quint. 8. 6.

73. **Eupolide.** The lines quoted are taken from a play called Δῆμος. Eupolis was a contemporary of Aristophanes, who is the **comicus alter** mentioned below. Hor. Sat. 1. 4, 1. Aristoph. Ach. 531.

95. **Ἀμετροεπῆ**, 'unbridled in talk:' the epithet of Thersites, Hom. Il. 2. 212.

Hunc, Ulysses; Il. 3. 222.

97. **Ille**, Menelaus; Il. 3. 214.

101. **At** introduces an objection, as before.

Ep. 14. Catilius Severus was great-grandfather of the Emperor M. Aurelius. He aimed at the empire for himself, and in consequence of expressing discontent at the adoption of Antoninus Pius by Hadrian, was removed from the office of praefect of the city by the latter. He had before been consul, A.D. 120. Smith's Dict. Biog.

2. **Aristonis.** Aristo was an eminent lawyer in the time of Trajan, and his works are often mentioned by Ulpian.

4. **Litterae ipsae**, 'literature itself.'

11. **Quam pressa et decora cunctatio**, 'how chastened and becoming is his caution.' 'Periculum observandum pressiore cautela' Apul. Met. 1. 5.

18. **Nihil ad ostentationem . . . refert**, 'does nothing with regard to ostentation as a motive.'

21. **Ex istis qui**, &c., professed philosophers. 'Praeferre,' to advertise. 'Modestiam praeferre' Tac. Ann. 13. 45.

Habitu, sc. 'barba, pallio, baculo.'

27. **Cesserit.** For mood and tense see Madvig, § 350 b.

28. **Ut . . . . transmittat**, 'how he bears.' 'Ecquid denique secessus, voluptates regionisque abundantiam inoffensa transmitteres' Ep. 54. 6. 'Omne hoc tempus inter pugillares et libellos iucundissima quiete transmisi' Ep. 75. 1.

Observe that the English idiom is the converse of the Latin: we speak of passing through an illness, they spoke of letting it pass them.

38. **Impetu quodam.** Cp. note on the fashion of suicide, Ep. 7.

49. **Confusioni**, 'disturbance' of mind. It is thus used in Tac. Hist. 3. 38, and Plin. Panegyr. 86 'Quam ego audio confusionem tuam fuisse, cum digredientem prosequereris.'

Ep. 15. The office of tribunes of the people continued to exist at Rome till the fifth century of our era. Augustus and his successors, however, by assuming it themselves, made the other tribunes comparatively powerless. Tacitus indeed mentions the case of Arulenus Rusticus, in Nero's reign, and of Vulcatius in the first year of Vespasian, showing that the power of 'interceding' by veto, in the Senate, still remained. Tac. Ann. 16. 26; Hist. 4. 9. Cp. 'Ne me cogatis inplorare auxilium tribunorum' Ep. 77. 96.

4. **In ordinem cogi**, 'to be treated with contempt;' literally, 'be reduced to the position of a common person.' The phrase, properly applicable to the

tribune, is here applied to his office, which makes it impossible to translate the passage literally. Cp. 'Decemviri querentes se in ordinem cogi' Liv. 3. 51.

10. **Clepsydra**, an 'hour-glass,' a vessel used for measuring time by water. See note on 'binas vel singulas' Ep. 52. 18.

13. **Aestus**, 'perplexity,' disturbance of mind. 'Explica aestum meum' Bk. 9. 34. 'Magno curarum fluctuat aestu' Virg. Aen. 8. 19.

15. **Eiurato magistratu**, 'by resigning my office.' Cp. 'Adactus Silanus eiurare magistratum' Tac. Ann. 12. 4. The word also means to decline, or protest against, an authority.

19. **Quam personam tibi inponas**, 'what character you take on yourself.' The word originally means a mask used by actors to speak through 'a personando:' hence 'a character in a play.'

Quae sapienti . . . perferatur, 'which a wise man should fit on with the view of wearing it to the end of the piece.' **Ita** is the emphatic word.

Ep. 16. 4. Gloriae suae, arising not so much from the victory of his army over Vindex (see on 57. 15) as from his refusal of the empire, which was both then and afterwards offered to him; see below 'cum principis noluisset.' Lord Orrery, in his observations, draws an ingenious parallel between Verginius and Monk Duke of Albemarle.

3. **Perinde felicis**, 'and as happy as he was great.'

5. **Historias**, such as those of Cluvius Rufus mentioned Bk. 9. 19.

Posteritati suae interfuit, 'was himself witness of his fame among posterity.' 'Posteritas'='posteritatis memoria' Bk. 5. 8. This pregnant sense of the word is determined by 'certus posteritatis' Ep. 74. 2, and confirmed by 'sola posteritatis cura' Tac. Hist. 2. 53.

7. **Cum principis noluisset.** His two refusals are mentioned Tac. Hist. 1. 8; 2. 51.

9. **Optimum**, Nerva.

13. **Citra dolorem**; lit. 'this side of,' hence 'without attaining,' or 'amounting to;' cp. 'peccavi citra scelus' Ov. Trist. 5. 8, 23.

15. **Acturus gratias**, as was usual on assuming office. Pliny's Panegyric on Trajan was delivered by him on the occasion of his consulship, A.D. 100. 'Officium consulatus iniunxit mihi ut reipublicae nomine principi gratias agerem' Ep. 32. 1.

16. **Et seni et stanti.** Both datives are governed by **elapsus est**, and explain why he failed to hold the book.

23. **Laudator eloquentissimus.** The exquisite conclusion of the life of Agricola by Tacitus justifies his fame in this respect. But this letter is worthy of comparison with that conclusion as regards grace and tenderness, and suggests the belief that Pliny must have written these lines with the thoughts and rhythm of the 'laudatio' of Verginius by Tacitus still fresh in his memory.

27. **Non solum publice quantum.** Either supply 'sed etiam privatim,'

or render thus: 'my affection for him was not merely commensurate with my admiration for his *public* conduct.'

32. **Ad omnes honores accucurrit.** Every candidate for office expected his friends, as a matter of course, to attend him at the election. This attendance was chief among the 'officia' or duties of compliment which friendship enjoined, such as 'officium togae virilis,' 'nuptiarum,' and the rest. While the elections were held in the Campus Martius the duty of these attendant friends consisted of three parts: first, they forwarded the candidate's election by recommending him as 'testes' or 'suffragatores;' secondly, they voted for him themselves; thirdly, they accompanied him to the Capitol, where some form of inauguration was observed. The third book of Varro, De Re Rust. is represented as a conversation among the friends of a candidate for the aedileship, who are waiting close by for the result of the election. After the transference of the elections to the Senate, the custom of complimentary attendance on candidates still survived, and at length the 'suffragatores' became so clamorous as to compel resort to the ballot. Ep. 34.

36. **Quinqueviros.** Commissions were appointed under this name for various purposes in the time of the republic and the empire. The number five seems to have been adhered to because found convenient in case of a division of opinion among the commissioners.

40. **Tibi mandarem**, sc. 'excusandi officium.'

44. **Vivit**: see on Ep. 74. 3, and compare the Positivist conception of immortality.

Ep. 17. This letter is a pendant to Juvenal's fifth Satire. It is a general confirmation of the facts which are there dwelt upon with the minuteness of satire.

2. **Familiaris.** This word has not here a general reference, but describes Pliny's relations with this particular acquaintance.

5. **Minuta**, scraps, such as 'semesus lepus,' 'minor altilis,' Juv. 5. 107.

19. **In ordinem redigenda est.** The phrase is transferred from the constitution of the state to that of the human soul. Appetite must be stripped of its authority, must obey instead of commanding. Cp. 'in ordinem cogi' Ep. 15. 4.

Ep. 18. 1. **Hominem te patientem**; accus. of exclamation, Madvig, § 236.

3. **Invidebis**; constructed by Pliny with a dat. of the person, and an abl. of the thing. So 'invideo aliis bono' Ep. 6. 43. The abl. marks that in respect of which the envy is felt, and sometimes has a preposition prefixed, as 'nisi in hoc Crasso inviderem' Cic. de Or. 2. 56. It is evident that an accus. of limitation would answer the same purpose, hence we find 'invidit collibus umbras' Virg. Ecl. 7. 58. Also the dat. of the person may be exchanged for the accus. which appears in fact to have been the more ancient usage. Quint. Inst. Or. 9. 3.

18. **Praesumo.** This word and its derivatives, in the sense of

'anticipation,' do not belong to classical usage, which preferred 'praecipio.'

Ep. 19. 2. Ego ... debeo, 'there is no one I had rather be in debt to.'

4. **Beneficiorum larga materia.** The commander of an army had in his patronage the appointment of military tribunes, six to each legion. That these appointments were canvassed for appears from a similar request in favour of Calvisius, Bk. 4. 4.

5. **Longum praeterea tempus**, during which many tribuneships would fall vacant, as they were only held for six months; cp. 'semestri tribunatu,' l. c.

8. **Voconius.** Pliny's anxiety for the interests of Voconius led him afterwards to solicit for him from Trajan a seat in the Senate. Trai. 4.

12. **Flamen**, not one of the 'flamines maiores,' as their office lasted for life.

18. **Epistulas quidem scribit**; this then was a recognised branch of literature.

Musas ipsas Latine loqui; an adaptation of the eulogy of Plautus recorded by Quint. Inst. Or. 10. 1 'Licet Varro dicat Musas, Aelii Stolonis sententia, Plautino sermone locuturas fuisse, si Latine loqui vellent.'

20. **Vincitur**, sc. in amando.

21. **Trium liberorum ius.** The Leges Julia, B.C. 18, and Papia Poppaea, A.D. 9, encouraged marriage and the nurture of children to supply the ravages of the civil wars. They were wide and various in their provisions, and we may probably attribute to them most of the disabilities which we find imposed upon 'caelibes' and 'orbi.' Lipsius, in a learned excursus on Tac. Ann. 3. 25, divides the 'praemia *πολυπαιδίας*' into several heads. (1) 'Ut in petitione candidati praeferentur, quibus liberi plures.' (2) 'Ut iidem praeferantur in sorte provinciarum.' (3) 'Ut praeeant in omni magistratu;' i.e. seniority between magistrates of equal rank was determined by this test. (4) 'Ut in honoribus petendis gratia sit annorum iis qui liberos habent.' So Calestrius Tiro, Bk. 7. 16, though not of full age for the tribunate of the people, was qualified by the possession of children. (5) 'Ut qui plures liberos habet a cura tutela ceterisque muneribus immunis sit.' All the above privileges and immunities were summed up in the expression 'ius trium liberorum.' The senate, and afterwards the emperors, granted this right to distinguished persons. We find that Pliny obtained it for himself Ep. 86, and for Suetonius, Trai. 95. The reply of Trajan in the latter case illustrates the words **parce et cum delectu** in this letter.

23. **Tanquam eligeret**; sc. 'ipse eligeret.'

Ep. 20. 1. Centumviralibus causis: see on Ep. 12. 9.

7. **Expresse**; 'expressus' and its adverb 'expresse' are terms of art in general, and as such are applied to very different branches of art, such as sculpture, painting, rhetoric, and elocution. There seems to be no one English word which can follow 'expressus' through all these various applications. The predominant sense is that of 'distinctness as the result of pains

bestowed.' Thus, in reference to statues, Ep. 26. 2, 'expressum' may almost be translated 'bold.' Again in Ep. 48. 10, where the metaphor is from painting, 'expressius ad exemplar,' 'more vividly true to the original.' Again, in this passage 'expresse' means 'with point and clearness,' as also 'expressa' Bk. 4. 27; a meaning closely connected with that which it bears in reference to elocution, namely distinctness and beauty of articulation.

8. **Auspicari.** An instance of that decay of language by which a special expands to a general sense. Here 'auspicari' means simply 'to begin.' Cp. 'auspicabar in Virginem desilire' Sen. Ep. 83.

16. **Actoribus similes.** The pleaders were paid by their clients, just as the audience were by the pleaders. This, though illegal, was most frequent, as we learn from Bk. 5. 4 and 9 and 13. Pliny however says, 'in causis agendis non modo pactione, dono, munere, verum etiam xeniis semper abstinui' Bk. 5. 13.

Manceps, the distributor of the 'sportulae.'

17. **Sportulae.** This word was now applied to any kind of gratuity for whatever purpose, and was no longer restricted to favours from 'patroni' to 'clientes.' For 'sportulae' given with a similar object, cp. Juv. 13. 32.

19. **Σοφοκλεῖς vocantur.** This refers to the 'auditores,' who were called Σοφοκλεῖς from *σοφῶς*, the usual exclamation of applause, and 'laudiceni,' because that applause was given, not for the speaker's eloquence, but for the dinner which they expected from him.

25. **Numerosa** in this sense belongs to the silver age. In Cicero and Ovid it always means 'rhythmical.'

34. **Corrogaret**; opposed to 'conduceret.' *He* only invited his audience, and did not pay them.

Ex Quintiliano. Quintilian was born at Calagurris in Spain, about A.D. 40. He was educated in Rome, where he was a disciple of Domitius Afer, as we learn from this letter and other sources. He revisited Spain, but came back to Rome in the train of Galba. He began to practise at the bar, but was yet more distinguished as a teacher of rhetoric. Vespasian gave him a salary from the imperial exchequer, not however large enough to justify Juvenal in describing him as the possessor of 'tot saltus' Juv. 8. 188, an exaggeration which is also inconsistent with Pliny's offer (Bk. 6. 32) of £400 towards his daughter's wedding outfit. Quintilian's great extant work is 'De Institutione Oratoria Libri XII,' which for matter and style deserves more attention than it generally receives.

36. **Domitium Afrum,** an orator who flourished under Tiberius and his successors. He died in the reign of Nero. Quintilian often refers to him. 'Eorum (sc. oratorum) quos viderim, Domitius Afer et Iulius Africanus longe praestantissimi.'

38. **Ex proximo,** 'from close by.' See on Ep. 4. 4.

43. **Hoc artificium,** forensic oratory.

45. **Fracta pronuntiatione**; in which the words were broken or mutilated, as in singing.

47. **Plausus**, in the proper sense, 'clapping of the hands.' The applause of which Pliny has been complaining was given by cheers and shouts.

Ep. 21. We learn from Bk. 9. 40 that Pliny generally spent the winter in his Laurentine, and the summer in his Tuscan villa. In the winter it was desirable to be near Rome on account of 'necessitas agendi, quae frequens hieme.'

3. **Litoris spatium**, the extent of shore belonging to the estate. 'Litus' sometimes stands for the seaside estate itself; 'de electione litorum' Tac. Ann. 3. 63.

5. **Salvo iam et composito die**, 'while the day is still in your possession and in its vigour.' Cp. 'virum aetate composita' Tac. Ann. 13. 1. The only difficulty in assigning to 'compositus' the sense here given, is that the word naturally contrasts itself with youth and dawn, not, as in this passage, with age and decline. But when 'compositus' has once been established in its sense of 'mature,' 'vigorous,' it is plain that it may be equally well contrasted with either extreme, morning or evening, of life or of the day. The context clearly forbids a comparison with Virg. Aen. 1. 374.

8. **Utrimque**, whether you come by the 'Via Laurentina' or the 'Via Ostiensis.'

9. **Iunctis**, 'for harnessed horses,' contrasted with 'equo.' From this contrast we infer the meaning 'et iunctos et solutos' Ep. 36. 8, 'both harness and saddle nags.'

14. **Non sumptuosa tutela**, 'and does not cost much to keep up.' Observe the descriptive abl., for which see Madvig, § 272 and § 287, Obs. 2. The gen. might have been used, as the words here do *not* describe the constitution of the villa with reference to its external parts.' For 'tutela' in this sense cp. 'ut villarum tutela non sit oneri' Plin. N. H. 18. 5.

16. **Porticus**, plur. two porticoes, placed thus ⊐ ⊏, the area being the space of ground between them. The likeness of the letter D means simply a semicircle.

18. **Specularibus**, windows of 'lapis specularis,' mica, which was split into thin plates for the purpose.

19. **Contra medias.** The entrance to the 'cavaedium' was opposite the middle of the two semicircular porticoes, so that in approaching it from the 'atrium' you passed through the convex side of the first portico exactly in the middle, then crossed the area between the two, and found the entrance of the 'cavaedium' opposite to you in the middle of the concave side of the further portico.

24. **A tergo.** If the visitor turned quite round after entering the dining-room, a beautiful vista was presented to him. The eye passed through the 'cavaedium' and one portico, then across the area, through another portico, and an 'atrium,' and finally rested on the woods and hills which stretched inland.

26. **A laeva**, on the left of the dining-room as you enter; i. e. on its south or south-east side.

Retractius paullo: it did not project so far seawards as the dining-room, hence the **angulus** mentioned below.

33. **Exceptis qui.** The corner would be sheltered on every side except the south-west, which was the rainy quarter.

Serenum: cp. 'aperta serena' Virg. G. 1. 393.

38. **Dormitorium membrum**, a bed-chamber.

Suspensus et tubulatus: see on Ep. 30. 8. The 'tubi' were earthenware pipes for conveying hot air.

41. **Plerisque tam mundis**; supply 'cellis' or 'cubiculis.' The substantive is omitted, as the context leaves no doubt of the sense. There may be truth in Buchner's explanation that these rooms, although not large enough for 'cubicula,' were yet too good to be called 'cellae;' hence the omission. Here again is a descriptive abl. connected with the words 'reliqua pars.'

49. **Baptisteria**, baths large enough for immersion, but not for swimming. For the latter purpose the sea was close at hand, and therefore the 'piscina' of cold water usually placed in the 'cella frigidaria' was unnecessary.

51. **Hypocauston**: see on Ep. 30. 8.

Propnigeon, a passage leading from the 'cella frigidaria' to the furnace.

52. **Duae cellae**; the 'tepidarium,' called 'cella media' Bk. 5. 6, and the 'caldarium.' There were thus three principal apartments in a complete bath, 'frigidarium,' 'tepidarium,' 'caldarium,' besides necessary adjuncts, such as an 'unctorium' and a 'propnigeon.' It is not clear whether the 'tepidarium' contained a tepid bath, or whether it was merely a warm room to sit in.

54. **Sphaeristerium**: see Ep. 24. 29. As the exercise of ball play immediately preceded the bath, this was the natural place for the 'sphaeristerium.'

59. **Apotheca**; here was kept the wine in 'amphorae' (in bottle). The 'apotheca' was generally, as here, on the first-floor, and near the baths, that the wine might benefit by the smoke of the furnace. 'Dolia' (wine in cask) were kept in the 'cella vinaria' on the ground-floor. See Becker's Gallus, Sc. 9, Exc. 4.

62. **Gestatio**, an avenue or drive running round the garden.

66. **Vinea**; the vine was sometimes allowed to run wild on the ground without supports, 'vignes courantes.' This was one of the five recognised methods of cultivation. See Pliny N. H. 17. 6.

69. **Hac . . . facie**, 'this view,' i. e. of the garden.

71. **Vestibulum**; in town houses this was merely the vacant space before the door, but in a villa perhaps there may have been something of a porch.

72. **Cryptoporticus.** The usual portico had a wall on one side, and an open row of columns on the other; but the 'cryptoporticus' was completely walled in.

Prope publici operis. It almost rivalled the splendid works of this kind which then existed in the Forum and Campus. The 'cryptoporticus' of this villa seems to have run out from it at right angles on its north or north-western side, and to have been carried on parallel with the coast, which may be supposed to have run from N.W. to S.E. The Xystus lay between it and the sea, and on the inland side was the garden. It could not well have been on the south-eastern side, as we are told above that that was appropriated to the slaves.

74. **Alternis,** 'alternately.' The meaning seems to be that the windows towards the sea were in groups of two or three ('plures'); that the opposite wall had but single windows corresponding to these groups, and even these single windows were not opposite to each group, but only to every other group.

77. **Xystus,** a terrace with flower-beds and ornamental shrubs. Vitruvius notices the different senses of the word in Greek and Latin respectively. 'Ξυστός enim Graeca appellatione est porticus ampla latitudine in qua athletae per hiberna tempora exercentur. Nostri autem hypaethras ambulationes xystos appellant' Vitr. 6. 10. The name is derived from the smooth floor, ξύω.

89. **In capite xysti deinceps cryptoporticus;** 'at the head of the terrace and then at the head of the covered walk.' 'Cryptoporticus' is a gen. governed by 'in capite.' The terrace and portico were parallel and conterminous, both being closed by the wall of the garden-house (**horti diaeta**), which cut straight across them. 'Deinceps' in this passage means little more than 'deinde,' and has not its usual sense of 'one after another.'

91. **Heliocaminus,** a room exposed on every side to the sun, and therefore suitable for winter use without artificial warmth.

93. **Zotheca.** This name was originally applied to cages or closets for keeping fatted poultry. Hence it was transferred to small rooms for purposes of study or retirement.

96. **A tergo villae;** those of which he speaks below, 'nunc continua, nunc intermissa tecta villarum.'

102. **Andron,** an alley or passage running between the wall of the bed-chamber and that of the garden. An 'andron' in the Greek sense would, of course, have been far from contributing to the quiet of the room. This word, like 'xystus' above, is noticed by Vitr. 6. 10, as having acquired a different sense in the phraseology of Roman architecture.

109. **Abesse.** This suite of rooms was removed from the villa by the whole length of the 'cryptoporticus.'

112. **Haec utilitas,** sc. 'villae.'

114. **Sunt enim in summo,** 'for they are surface springs.' 'Putei' were wells in which the water lay deep; but the shallow wells here described were properly called 'fontes.' The substantive 'summum' is frequently used for the surface of water, and here for the surface of the ground in which the water appears.

119. **Quem . . . discernit,** 'between which and my house there is only one villa.'

122. **Calfacere dissuadeat**; poetical or loose syntax for 'ne calfacias dissuadeat.' 'Suadeo' with the infin. is frequent in Virgil.

Ep. 22. 1. **Praeceptorem.** The education of the higher classes was generally conducted at home by a private tutor, until the boys were fit to join the classes of the professors. The 'praeceptor' here intended is a *public* teacher. So in speaking of a similar request made by the daughter of Corellius on behalf of her son, Pliny says, 'iam studia extra limen proferenda sunt, iam circumspiciendus rhetor Latinus' Bk. 3. 3. Pliny himself had attended the public lectures of Quintilian; and it was that which he now recalled with pleasure.

2. **Fratris tui liberis,** the sons of Arulenus Rusticus (probably) by his wife Gratilla. Editors previous to Keil printed Gratilla for Galla, Ep. 44. 2. In that case it was necessary to assume that Asudius Curianus there mentioned must have been born to Gratilla by a former husband, before her marriage with Rusticus, so that even in that case Asudius Curianus could not have been one of these 'liberi.' Rusticus had also left a daughter under the care of Mauricus, for whom Pliny was commissioned to find a husband. See Ep. 9, note.

3. **Illam dulcissimam aetatem,** sc. 'pueritiam.'

Resumo is used of the 'Pleasures of Memory,' as 'praesumo' of the 'Pleasures of Hope.' See on Ep. 18. 18.

6. **Coram multis ordinis nostri**; who came, for their own profit, as the father of Julius Naso came to Quintilian's lecture room, or to hear their son's performances. Cp.

'Quae pater adductis sudans audiret amicis' Pers. 3. 47.

9. **Probe,** 'probitate illaesa.'

10. **Profitentur.** A word which in Cicero's time required an accusative to explain its sense, now by itself conveyed an unmistakable meaning. This alone would be sufficient evidence of the progress of education in Rome between the two dates.

15. **Dicerem tui**; a far-fetched conceit. He would call them Mauricus' children, if he did not think that he loved them better as his lost brother's children, than he would do if he regarded them as his own.

Ep. 23. 1. **Assem para**: see on 'circulator' Ep. 37. 26.

Auream; so Apuleius calls the Ass of his romance 'aureus,' superior to all others.

3. **Verania Pisonis.** 'Piso's wife.' Cp. 'Liceat tumulo scripsisse Catonis Marcia' Lucan 2. 343.

Graviter iacebat. In the looser style of this period an adverb is used with 'iaceo,' which properly belongs to the synonym 'aegroto.'

4. **Adoptavit.** A mutiny in Germany caused Galba to adopt Piso as his son and colleague. Only four days intervened between his adoption and the outbreak of Otho's conspiracy, in which both Galba and Piso were slain.

Regulus, M. Aquilius, the foremost of that crowd of 'delatores,' which gathered round the bad emperors. He was a creature of Domitian, and is accordingly flattered by Martial in four epigrams, which chiefly relate to his escape from the fall of a portico. Pliny in sketching this man's character unconsciously gives us a foil to his own. He was utterly wanting in Pliny's high qualities of honour, liberality, humanity, and truthfulness. Bk. 1. 5 gives an amusing account of his apprehension after the loss of his patron Domitian. For the rise and influence of the delatores, see an admirable sketch in Merivale, Hist. Emp. c. 44.

5. **Inpudentiam**: cp. 'hominem te patientem' Ep. 18. 1.

10. **Climactericum.** All multiples of 7 and 9 were called climacteric years, and thought dangerous to life. $7 \times 9 = 63$ was therefore the grand climacteric, cp. Gell. 3. 10. Regulus employed the term in his jargon to frighten Aurelia.

29. **Scholastica lege.** A common and erroneous interpretation is 'like an idle fellow,' which gives 'tertiam' no more sense than 'aliam.' This is much too pointless for our author's style. There must be an allusion to some unknown precept of the schools, perhaps one requiring that a thesis should be illustrated by at least three instances; cp. Ep. 31, which is in fact a theme on the subject 'alia clariora, alia maiora,' illustrated by *three* incidents from the life of Arria the elder.

30. **Ornata**, adjectival, not participial, in sense; 'a lady of rank.'

Aurelia: we learn from another source also that she was an object of attention to 'captatores.' Juv. 5. 98.

42. **Consuleret quam cito**, 'was inquiring how soon.'

45. **Aliena testamenta**, 'other people's wills.'

Inprobissimum genus falsi, 'a most impudent kind of trickery.' 'Falsum' was a wider word than 'forgery,' embracing also base coinage, and, as we learn from this passage, undue influence.

46. **Ipsis quorum sunt illa.** This is put thus emphatically to mark how Regulus reversed the natural order of things. Usually the testator dictated to some one else the terms of his will; but here we find Regulus dictating them to the testator. 'Dictò' is the technical word for such transactions. Cp. 'rivalis dictabitur heres' Juv. 6. 218.

Ep. 24. 8. **Sera**, 'too late.'

11. **Lectulo**; not in bed, but on his writing couch. They used for the purposes of study, not chairs and desks, but a couch, 'lectus,' 'lectulus,' 'lecticula.' Cp. 'Iacere in lectulo suo compositus in habitum studentis' Ep. 46. 21.

12. **Calceos**; always worn in public with the toga. They covered the whole foot, while the 'soleae,' worn at other times, were merely sandals.

21. **Hoc** is explained by **ne praecipere videatur.**

25. **Lyrica.** Four mutilated lyrical fragments bearing the title 'Vestricius Spurinna De contemptu Saeculi' were discovered and edited by Barthius in 1613. They are probably early forgeries suggested by this passage, and

so composed as to accord with what is here said of Spurinna. See Wernsdorf's Poet. Lat. Min., vol. 3.

26. **Gratiam cumulat.** This makes it probable that Spurinna's verses were somewhat free in their tone. Elsewhere (Bk. 4. 14) we find that Pliny considered such freedom not only consistent with purity of life, but also, as it were, an agreeable relief.

27 **Nuntiata est**; a slave watched the 'solarium' or the 'clepsydra,' and announced the expiration of each hour.

29. **Movetur pila**; as was usual before bathing. Old men commonly played with the 'follis,' a larger and lighter ball, requiring less exertion than the 'pila.'

34. **Puro**, 'plain,' without ornament. Spurinna's simple and refined taste preferred this to the more admired 'caelatum' or 'asperum argentum.' See Becker's Gallus, Sc. 2. n. 12.

35. **Corinthia**; vessels made of the rare and costly Corinthian bronze. Even Pliny had nothing in his villa of this material, and when he bought a 'Corinthium signum,' placed it in a temple as 'dignum deo donum' Ep. 26. 17. The secret of manufacturing Corinthia had long been lost, hence their value.

Adficitur; a word of strong emotion, here contrasted with the *moderate* pleasure signified by 'delectatur.' Cp. 'delectare oculos imperitorum' Ep. 26. 12.

36. **Comoedis.** We have frequent mention in these letters of entertainments performed during dinner. At some houses ballet dancers ('Gaditanae') were introduced, Ep. 10. 8; or clowns ('scurrae vel moriones') strayed about the room, Bk. 9. 17. But persons of a higher taste, such as Pliny and his friends, diverted themselves with more instructive amusements, 'ut voluptates quoque studiis condiantur.' They resorted to standard authors, from which history was read by the 'lector,' poetry sung to music by the 'lyristes,' or some passage of comedy rendered memoriter by the 'comoedus.' Chosen slaves were trained for these several duties. Cp. for 'lector,' Cic. Fam. 5. 9; for 'comoedus,' Ep. 50. 8.

Ep. 25. 3. Indicis partibus. The words 'titulus' and 'index,' with reference to books, have two distinct senses. It cannot be said that the one sense is always represented by 'titulus,' and the other by 'index,' but at least the meanings themselves are clearly separate, by whichever name either may be designated. There was first the title written on the strip of paper or parchment, and affixed to the outside of the roll, and this was usually called 'titulus;' secondly, there was the table of contents, found in some books, written inside the book, probably at the beginning, and this is the usual sense of 'index,' or 'indices.' Such were the indices composed by Pliny the elder for his Natural History, and by Gellius for his Noctes Atticae. It is easy to see that from such an index of the contents of one book might grow an index describing, as in this letter, all the works of one author, or even an index of the works of various authors of the same class, such as that alluded to by Seneca, 'sume in manus indicem philosophorum' Sen. Ep.

39. Cp. also Quint. Inst. Or. 10. 1. Salmasius' Prolegomena to Solinus contain much that is valuable on this subject.

7. **Pomponi Secundi**; a general and a poet, whom Quintilian pronounced to have excelled in tragedy all his contemporaries. Pliny the elder speaks of this life of Pomponius, N. H. 14. 7.

12. **Drusi Neronis**, stepson of Augustus and brother of the emperor Tiberius. He died at the age of twenty-nine, after a brilliant campaign in Germany

Germaniae latissime victor. Although 'victor' here retains its original subst. meaning and construction, governing the genitive, yet we find the adverb 'latissime' affixed to it. It is a stronger case than 'minime largitor dux' Liv. 6. 2, where 'largitor' loses its independence and adheres closely to 'dux.' Cp. 'populum late regem' Virg. Aen. 1. 21.

14. **Studiosi tres**; three books of the 'Studiosus,' a title of a work of the same nature as the 'Orator' of Cicero.

In sex volumina. 'Liber' and 'volumen' were originally synonymous, both meaning a single roll of MSS. Subsequently 'volumen' only was retained for this meaning, while the extent of the 'liber' was fixed by the limits of the subject and the design of the author, not by the accidental size of the roll on which he wrote. Hence, as here, one 'liber' might extend through two rolls, 'volumina;' or again, one 'volumen' might embrace all the forty-eight books of Homer's works. Ulp. Dig. 32. 50.

16. **Dubii sermonis**, 'on bad grammar.' For this sense of 'dubius' cp. 'dubio de petasone' Mart. 3. 77. Pliny the elder himself, in his only extant work, speaks of 'libellos quos de Grammatica edidi' Plin. N. H. Praef.

18. **A fine .... Bassi**, 'a continuation of the history of Aufidius Bassus.'

22. **Scrupulosa** = 'aspera,' troublesome, and therefore easily derived, in this sense, from 'scrupulus,' a sharp pebble. The sense of 'minute,' 'scrupulous,' which this word bears in late Latin seems to require a connection with 'scrupulus' in a different sense, viz. $\frac{1}{24}$ of an ounce.

27. **Vulcanalibus**, Aug. 23.

Non auspicandi causa. Other people began the use of candle-light on that morning because it was sacred to the god of flame, and then left it off again. But Pliny really began to study before daybreak at that date. The ambitious father, in Juvenal, does not make his son get up to work by candle-light till later in the year, 'post finem auctumni' Sat. 14. 190, where see Mayor's note.

28. **Statim a nocte multa.** At once, before the days really grew short, he took, even in August, a great portion of the night for study; but in the winter he took as much as five-twelfths of it for that purpose. The Roman days and nights were reckoned from sunrise and sunset respectively; and day and night were each divided into twelve hours, which therefore varied in length at the different seasons with the variations of the days and nights themselves. If we had merely 'sexta,' 'midnight' would be sufficient without

further comment; but for the above reason it is impossible to give English hours corresponding to 'septima' and 'octava' throughout a lapse of time, though if one day only had been specified the calculation might easily be made. The point therefore which we must seize is the proportion of the night which he devoted to study in the winter time, remembering always that it was taken from the end of the night and not from the beginning.

30. **Paratissimi.** 'Paratus' in this author is often a thorough adjective with the sense of 'ready.' Cp. 'parata oblivio mortuorum' Ep. 57. 17.

31. **Ante lucem**: cp. Suet. Vesp. 21.

34. **Cibum**, luncheon, taken about noon.

35. **Facilem**, simple, easy to be got. So 'Afrae aves' are said to be admired, 'quod non sunt faciles' Petr. 93.

43. **Perperam**; used of unconscious mistakes, especially in language. Contrast with the ignorance implied in this word the opposite sense of 'perverse.' See on Ep. 36. 20.

47. **Decem amplius versus**, 'more than ten lines.' 'If a magnitude which is expressed by a numeral is increased by "plus" or "amplius," then either "plus" or "amplius," with or without "quam," is added to the name of the magnitude without any influence on its case, which remains the same which the context would require without the comparative; cp. "plus septingenti capti sunt" Liv. 41. 12,' Madvig, § 305. Observe that in this passage the usual order is transposed, 'decem amplius,' for 'amplius decem.'

48. **Intra primam**; hence we learn that three hours was thought a short time to devote to dinner.

51. **De interioribus**; the actual immersion.

54. **Notarius.** Short-hand was generally used by these secretaries. Cp. 82. 9. A system of Roman short-hand is printed at the end of Gruter's Corp. Inscr. Unlike our own it consisted of abbreviations for prepositions, terminations, &c. thus, I = amus, L = emus.

56. **Sella**; in the 'sella' they sat upright, but lay at length in the 'lectica.'

59. **Hac intentione**, 'it was by this unremitting application that,' &c.

61. **Opisthographos.** It was usual for less prolific authors to write on one side only of the paper or parchment. Hence the backs of worthless books were used for school exercises, and Martial thus addresses a volume of his, 'Inversa pueris arande charta' Mart. 4. 87.

64. **Largio Licino**, mentioned, Ep. 20. 33, as the first to collect claqueurs in the law courts.

66. **Nonne videtur.** The knowledge of his public employments would have led us to expect infinitely less results, but the knowledge of his laboriousness to expect even more.

72. **Ego autem tantum**, a verb must be supplied for 'ego' by a reminiscence of **soleo ridere si comparer** above, 'but am I so earnestly to deprecate comparison,' &c. Pliny's literary industry will not bear comparison with his uncle's, although he has the excuse of many distractions.

Still less can those literary men who have no distractions bear the comparison.

Ep. 26. 1. Corinthium: see on 'Corinthia' Ep. 24. 35.

2. **Festivum et expressum**, 'elegant and bold.' See on 'expresse' Ep. 20. 7.

8. **Cedentes**, 'recedentes a fronte.'

Isto, 'in your direction.'

26. **Ad paucos dies.** 'Ad' with the accus. would naturally fix the date of his coming, 'after a few days,' 'in a few days time;' cp. 'ad praefinitum diem' Ep. 63. 10, 'ad decem annos' Cic. Att. 5. 2. But the context forbids this sense. It must mean 'for a few days stay,' and is a careless expression which may be explained in either of two ways. It may be an abbreviation for 'ad paucos dies commorandum,' in which case 'ad' will really belong to a suppressed gerund; or, as seems more probable, the words 'ad paucos dies,' 'up to, as long as, a few days,' are thrown in as though he had written them 'adfuturum,' instead of 'venturum.'

Ep. 27. 1. Silius Italicus. His great work, an epic of seventeen books on the Second Punic war, is extant, and confirms by its style and matter what is said in this letter of his devotion to Virgil.

5. **Minorem**, Severus by name, as we learn Mart. 9. 87.

12. **Lectulo**, here, as in Ep. 24. 11, not his bed but his couch, as we see from what follows **cum a scribendo vacaret.** There is no reference here to his illness, which came on him after his retirement to Campania.

Semper, non ex fortuna, to be taken with **frequenti.** His chamber was always a place of resort, and that not on account of his wealth.

14. **Maiore cura quam ingenio.** Merivale takes this as the motto of the literature of what he calls the 'Flavian period.' 'Silius writes with all the principles of art in his head, and all the works of the great models ranged in order round his desk' Hist. Emp. c. 64.

18. **Novi principis**, Trajan, who had received at Cologne, A.D. 98, the news of his accession, but did not enter Rome till more than a year had elapsed.

34. **Modo modo**, 'the other day.' The reduplication sharpens the sense from 'lately' to 'quite lately.' Compare the Italian idiom 'ben bene,' &c.

37. **Per summum facinus.** Attempts were made to implicate Piso, proconsul of Africa, in treason against Vespasian; and when these failed he was murdered in his own house by order of Valerius Festus, who commanded the troops stationed in the province. Baebius Massa, often mentioned by Pliny, was the man who pointed out Piso to the assassins. Tac. Hist. 4. 49 and 50.

47. **Quatenus**; this conjunction passes through the meanings, 'as far as,' 'while,' and 'when,' till it = 'quum.' Then, like 'quum,' it comes to stand for 'quoniam,' 'since.' Cp. 'quatenus, heu nefas, Virtutem incolumem odimus' Hor. Od. 3. 24, 30.

49. **Currentem quoque**; this frequent proverbial expression continues the metaphor introduced by **stimulis**, lit. goads.

50. **Ἀγαθὴ δ' ἔρις**, in allusion to Hesiod's distinction between good and bad strife, competition and contention. Hesiod describes the former thus,

ἥτε καὶ ἀπαλαμόν περ ὅμως ἐπὶ ἔργον ἐγείρει.

Hes. Op. et Di. 20.

Ep. 28. 2. In maius. This phrase (with 'in melius,' 'in peius,' &c.) is frequent in Pliny and writers of his age. Cp. also Sall. Jug. 73, and *ἐπὶ τὸ μεῖζον κοσμεῖν*, Thuc. 1. 21.

4. **Quum essent philosophi ab urbe summoti.** In A.D. 86 Domitian revived the decrees of Vespasian against the philosophers.

6. **Fui praetor.** He allowed himself to be promoted by Domitian until that emperor's final outbreak of cruelty in the slaughter of Senecio, Rusticus, and the rest. After this he determined to retire into privacy, yet he was obliged to fulfil the remaining term of his office as praetor. 'Provectus ab illo insidiosissimo principe antequam profiteretur odium bonorum, postquam professus est substiti' Plin. Pan. 95.

8. **Mussantibus.** By the whispering murmurs of persons in doubt, 'musso' passes from the sense of murmuring to that of hesitation, which latter is frequent enough; cp. 'Mussat rex ipse Latinus Quos generos vocet' Virg. Aen. 12. 657.

10. **Septem amicis meis.** This seems a convenient opportunity for some account of that great and ill-fated family, of whose virtues and sorrows these letters so often speak. Ep. 31 contains nearly as much as is known of Caecina Paetus and Arria his wife, who perished for his share in the conspiracy of Scribonianus against the Emperor Claudius A.D. 42. They left a daughter, Arria the younger, already married to Paetus Thrasea, afterwards the noblest of Nero's victims, in the narrative of whose death the last extant book of the Annals of Tacitus comes abruptly to a close. Thrasea's widow, Arria the younger, survived to see the disasters of her family, and the final return of happier days under Nerva. The next member of the family is one of whom Pliny writes with more than usual affection, Ep. 67. Thrasea Paetus left one daughter, Fannia, married before his death to Helvidius Priscus, who escaped his father-in-law's fate only by the alternative of banishment, from which he returned with his wife after the accession of Vespasian. Again the same sentence was pronounced, and a second time Fannia followed her husband into exile, 'bis maritum secuta in exsilium est' Ep. 67. 12. The enemies of Helvidius, and his own indiscretion, changed the sentence to that of death; and Helvidius, under Vespasian, met the fate of his father-in-law Thrasea under Nero. Fannia returned to Rome with Helvidius the younger, her husband's son by a previous marriage. This Helvidius was subsequently married to Anteia, who, like her husband, had to deplore a murdered father, Anteius, Tac. Ann. 16. 14. Fannia's troubles were not ended, for Domitian had yet to reign. She furnished Senecio with materials for a life of her husband, and with her

mother Arria suffered a third banishment for her share in the matter, while Senecio expiated his by death, 'tertio ipsa *propter* maritum relegata' Ep. 67.13. At the same time, Fannia's stepson Helvidius the younger was condemned on a trifling charge, and this is the Helvidius to whose murder allusion is made in this letter. With him suffered a close friend of the family, Arulenus Rusticus, on the same charge as Senecio, while the wife of Rusticus, Gratilla, and his brother Junius Mauricus were banished. Nerva's accession brought back the exiles, and the gloomy band of mourners which advances from this single family and its connections enables us to conceive what was that laceration of the state which Domitian completed, 'non iam per intervalla et spiramenta sed continuo et velut uno ictu' Tac. Agr. 44. Four widows, Arria, Fannia, Anteia, Gratilla, mourned for husbands, three of them for fathers, who had perished, while Junius Mauricus lamented a brother. In this society Pliny lived, having himself barely escaped, Ep. 68. 65. His bitterness against the delatores, Regulus, Bk. 1. 5, Certus, Ep. 77, in part causes of so much misery, is easy to understand, and is in no way contrary to his usual humanity.

18. **Quum in Syria tribunus militarem**: see Life of Pliny.

19. **Indolis**; the good sense of this word was so nearly universal, that no qualifying adjective was necessary.

32. **Unde coepi.** Cp. l. 1, **benigna natura.**

Ep. 29. 3. **Erunt officia anteluoana**, 'early visits of compliment will be going on.' 'Officium' was the common name for the various attentions shown by one friend to another, or by a client to his patron, such as the morning salutation. This took place at daybreak; cp. 'Prima salutantes atque altera continet hora' Mart. 4. 8. Such 'officia' were sometimes even 'antelucana'; cp. 'ante lucem ibat ad Vespasianum' Ep. 25. 31.

In quae incidere, 'to fall in with which,' i.e. to meet with the persons engaged in them. Pliny is afraid that Catilius' party will be so late, that when he returns home, he will meet with people already beginning the duties of the next day. It will be seen by the illustration which is given, that more is meant by 'incidere' than is actually expressed by the word.

5. **C. Caesar**; in his Anticato, a reply to Cicero's panegyric of Cato. It was a considerable work, and is quoted by Gell. 4: 16 as an authority for the use of *u* in the dative of the fourth declension.

Ep. 30. 1. **Nec tantum epistula**, 'sed tragoedia.' A letter cannot do justice to it.

3. **Alioqui.** Here we have 'alioqui et qui' 'in other respects, and in that he' or 'especially in that he,' an imitation of the Greek idiom ἄλλως τε καί. 'Alioqui,' 'in other respects,' 'moreover,' is not frequent till the time of Tacitus and Pliny. Besides its strictly adverbial use with adjectives and verbs, it is sometimes prefixed to a whole clause; 'alioqui narrasses mihi' Ep. 72. 2, 'or else you would have told me.'

8. **Fervens pavimentum.** The floor of the 'caldarium' in a Roman bath, and sometimes the floors of passages ('transitu . . . qui suspensus' Ep. 21. 38), were heated from beneath by 'hypocausta,' being raised from the

ground on short pillars, 'pilae quae habeant altitudinem pedum duorum' Vitr. 5. 10. This arrangement may still be seen in the walls and floor at Uriconium (Wroxeter). To this invention Seneca refers, Ep. 90, 'Quaedam nostra demum prodisse memoria scimus; ut *suspensuras* balneorum et impressos parietibus tubos, per quos circumfunderetur calor, qui ima simul et summa foveret aequaliter.'

11. **Quasi** introduces either a word or a proposition, and its use implies either that the word is not exactly applicable, or that the proposition is not exactly true. Here of course it is used for the latter purpose.

17. **Focilatus.** 'Focilo' and its compounds belong to late Latin, and, like other Silver Age words, were probably revived from ante-classical usage. 'Foveo' and 'focus' have been suggested as probable roots; but Casaubon derives 'focilo' from 'fauces' by a process exactly the inverse of that by which we obtain the word 'comforter.'

21. **Non . . . iudicio.** He means that masters are murdered not by way of retribution because they have been cruel, but good and bad alike out of pure instinct to crime.

27. **Ut transitum daret.** 'Anteambulones' went before the litter to clear the way. They were not always so gentle as the slave here mentioned. Cp. 'Ferit hic cubito, ferit assere duro Alter' Juv. 3. 245.

Ep. 31. 2. Alia clariora: see on 'scholastica lege' Ep. 23. 29.

3. **Arriae:** see on Ep. 28. 10.

12. **Vivere filium simulabat.** For fortitude in some respects similar see an elegant version of a Jewish legend, 'The Loan' in Baring-Gould's 'Silver Store.'

21. **Paete non dolet.**

> 'Casta suo gladium cum traderet Arria Paeto,
> Quem de visceribus traxerat ipsa suis,
> Si qua fides, vulnus quod feci non dolet, inquit,
> Sed quod tu facies hoc mihi Paete dolet.'
>
> Mart. 1. 14.

24. **Matrem agere,** 'to act the mother.' Cp. 'Etiam quum amicum imperatoris ageret' Tac. Hist. 1. 30.

26. **Fuerat Paetus in partibus,** 'Paetus had been a partisan,' i. e. in the conspiracy. Cp. 'militum acerrimos ducere in partes' Tac. Ann. 15. 51.

30. **Calcietur.** 'Calceo' is the usual pres. ind. act. from which would be formed 'calceetur,' but the double *e* is avoided by the substitution of *i*.

33. **Apud Claudium;** when they came to trial before the emperor.

Profiteretur indicium, 'turned king's evidence,' as we should say. Cp. 'Summum supplicium decernebatur ni professus indicium foret' Tac. Ann. 6. 3. The phrase literally means 'to volunteer information.'

34. **Ego, inquit, te audiam.** 'Audiam' is pres. subj. not fut. ind. 'Am I to (let myself) listen to you.' 'The subj. is used in inquiries as to what is (or was) to be done, when it is intended to indicate that something will

not be done (or has not been done).' 'Illius stultitia victa ex urbe rus tu habitatum migres?' Ter. Hec. 4. 2. 13. 'Ego te videre noluerim' Cic. ad Q. F. 1. 3. Madvig, § 353. Also cp. 'Numeres reipublicae summam' Ep. 66. 3.

Cuius in gremio. The meaning is, 'you who could bear to survive your husband's death.' The disjointed mode of expression, **et vivis**, is a witness to the genuineness of the words.

38. **Filiam tuam mori mecum.** Twenty-four years later, as Thrasea foresaw, a decision had to be made on this point, which resulted in his persuading Arria the younger to survive him for the sake of their daughter Fannia; Tac. Ann. 16. 34.

45. **Impegit.** Pliny's admiration for this ferocious attempt forms a pendant to Seneca's observation, Ep. 70, in which, among anecdotes of hideous suicides, he remarks, 'cui difficilis occasio (mortis) est, is proximam quamque pro optima arripiat, sit licet inaudita, sit nova.'

49. **Circumfert,** sc. 'celebrat,' occurs three times in the letters in this unusual sense.

Ep. 32. 2. Principi gratias: see on Ep. 16. 15.

11. **E specula.** Fires were lighted on 'speculae' for military purposes; cp. Lucan 6. 276. But Pliny is probably thinking of a lighthouse or Pharos, such as stood on the rock of Capreae, Suet. Tib. 74.

15. **Codicillos,** waxed tablets used for short notes to persons near at hand. The following passage seems to imply that letters sent to a distance, 'epistolae,' were not written on 'codicilli;' 'adeo tecum sum, ut dubitem, an incipiam non epistolas, sed codicillos tibi scribere' Sen. Ep. 55 sub fin. 'Epistolae,' were therefore probably written on paper whenever it was unlikely that the tablet would be returned. So we find Pliny using paper, 'charta adhuc superest' Ep. 30. 23.

15. **Libellos,** bills publicly circulated as opposed to private notes of invitation. In the dialogue de Oratoribus, attributed to Tacitus, the giver of a recitation is said 'libellos dispergere.'

33. **Hac severitate aurium laetor.** Here is the result of Quintilian's teaching. Pliny, like his master, earnestly desired to bring about a reform in the public taste, hitherto devoted to the stilted and florid rhetoric in which Seneca and Lucan excelled. The criticism on Seneca, Quint. Inst. Or. 10. 1, is the best comment on this passage, and is as well worth reading as the rest of that celebrated chapter.

34. **Theatra,** the audiences. Cp. 'Theatra tota reclamant' Cic. de Or. 3. 50.
Male, to be taken with 'canere.'

38. **Constare rationem:** see on Ep. 5. 1.

43. **Iusta possessione,** 'the ground which they might fairly occupy,' such as panegyric. The double regimen of 'decedere' is uncommon, though its use in these two senses, 'to make way for,' and 'to retire from,' with the dat. and abl. severally, is common enough. Cp. 'sanctis decedere Divis' Cat. Pel. 62; 'decedere instituto suo' Liv. 37. 54.

Ep. 33. 1. Adsumo te in consilium: a technical phrase, used especially of the imperial 'consiliarii.' See on Ep. 42. 1.

3. **Sollicitant**; here as elsewhere = 'alliciunt,' which seems to point to a community of derivation for the two words, either real or supposed.

4. **Iungendi.** Cp. 'Si Libyam remotis Gadibus iungas' Hor. Od. 2. 2, 10.

6. **Procuratore.** One steward would be quite sufficient, and fewer 'sub-agents' or 'clerks,' 'actores,' would be required for contiguous estates, than for such as lay entirely separate from each other. There is no mention of a 'villicus' or farm-bailiff, as this estate seems not to have been farmed by the owner, but let out to 'coloni.'

7. **Unam villam colere.** It would be sufficient to have a house of residence, 'villa urbana,' on one of the two estates. The other might simply be kept up as a 'villa rustica' for the habitation of agents and slaves.

9. **Atriensium**; the 'atriensis' and the slaves under him had to keep in order the house and furniture.

Topiariorum, fancy gardeners, whose art consisted in training and clipping into shapes and patterns ('litteras quae nomen domini dicunt;' 'bestiarum effigies' Bk. 5. 6) those evergreen plants which then formed the chief ornaments of Italian gardens. Cp. 'topiarium laudavi: ita omnia convestit hedera qua basim villae, quae intercolumnia ambulationis ut,' &c. Cic. ad Q. F. 3. 1. See Becker's Gallus, Exc. 2, Sc. 5.

17. **Materiam**, timber for building, not wood for fuel; in which sense always 'lignum,' from 'lego' or 'ligo.'

20. **Pignora**, the farm stock, live or dead, on which distraint was made. This would include the slaves belonging to the 'coloni.'

Reliqua, arrears.

23. **Instruendi**; 'they therefore (the 'coloni,') must be provided with slaves at so much higher a price than usual, because good slaves.' The 'coloni,' though attached to the land, and themselves to some extent under servile disabilities, were nevertheless tenants paying rent and possessing property of their own in stock and slaves. See Smith's Dict. Ant. art. 'Colonus,' and Daubeny's Roman Husbandry, Lect. 2.

Quod frugi. Pliny has no 'servi vincti' to give them. This class of slaves being untrustworthy worked in fetters and were confined in a sort of prison. He must therefore buy 'servi soluti' of good character, and these will cost a great deal, and add greatly to the expense of entering upon the property.

25. **Sestertio tricies.** A million of sesterces is regularly expressed by 'decies centena millia sestertium' (Abbreviated gen. plur. for 'sestertiorum.') But instead of this we commonly find the abbreviated expression, 'decies sestertium' (generally reversed, 'sestertium decies'), and so on for larger numbers. In such expressions 'sestertium,' which is properly a gen. plur., is treated as a neuter subst. sing. Madvig, Suppl. 2. From this imaginary subst. we here have 'sestertio,' abl. of price.

26. **Hac paenuria colonorum.** Since the 'coloni' were inseparable from the soil, their condition affected the value of the estate.

30. **Aliquid tamen fenero.** He had some little money out at interest, and therefore says above, '*prope* totus.'

31. **Non secus ac mea.** Cp. his letter to her, 'Non, mehercule tam mea sunt quae mea sunt, quam quae tua' Bk. 1. 4.

Ep. 34. 2. Lex tabellaria. Cicero mentions four such leges, by which vote by ballot was gradually sanctioned in the various functions of the comitia; namely, the election of magistrates, the iudicia publica, and the enactment and repeal of laws. The dates of these laws range between 139 and 107 B.C. and Cicero pro Sest. 48, in speaking of the 'Lex Cassia,' confirms what is here said of the contentions which the question called forth. When the election of magistrates was transferred by Tiberius to the senate, the ballot was laid aside till the date of this letter.

6. **Contionum,** open meetings, as opposed to legally constituted assemblies.

16. **Sub quo militaverat;** military service was a necessary qualification of all candidates for office.

20. **Annos arguebat,** under the 'leges annales,' which fixed the age necessary for each office.

31. **Ut in reciperatoriis iudiciis.** 'Reciperatores,' generally three in number, were appointed by the praetor to decide on some issue of fact which required no knowledge of law; Sigonius de Iud. 1. 22. Hence there was no reason against these being picked out on the spot from persons present in court, instead of being taken from a fixed list as the 'iudices' were. So we find Cicero, Verr. 2. 3, 59 and 60, complaining of Verres for not naming 'reciperatores de conventu.' The point of comparison between the senate on this occasion and 'reciperatores' lies in the words **repente apprehensi.**

Ep. 35. 1. Decessisse. We have reason to believe that Martial lived till the close of the year 100 A.D.

3. **Fellis,** 'bile,' the emblem of bitterness. Pliny seems to have in his mind Martial's own criticism, Mart. 7. 25, which enumerates the same ingredients, 'sal,' 'fel,' and 'candor,' as necessary for epigrams that were meant to be read.

Candoris, kindness of heart. Ovid credits Salanus with 'candor' for his sympathy with him in his exile, although their acquaintance was but slight. Ov. Pont. 2. 5, 5. Sincerity was not necessarily implied in the word, and indeed candour, in the English sense, could not possibly have been attributed to the sycophant Martial.

4. **Prosecutus eram.** 'Prosequor' is only twice used in these letters in the sense 'to accompany,' but very frequently in its idiomatic sense, 'to compliment with,' followed by such ablatives as 'libello,' 'legatis,' 'suffragio.' It seems to be used of such attentions as could not be claimed or even expected, and intimates that the benefactor went as it were out of his way, and *followed up* the friend whom he wished to honour. This sense of

'prosequor' was so clearly understood, that the verb occurs without an explanatory abl. Ep. 46. 6, and Suet. Dom. 9.

12. **Tenerem.** Cp. 'Numeros memini si verba tenerem' Virg. Ecl. 9. 45.

19. **Hoc.** Observe that 'studeo' begins to take an accus. together with its proper dat.

20. **Arpinis.** So Juvenal, 8. 237, calls Cicero himself 'Arpinas,' from Arpi his birthplace.

Ep. 36. 1. **Regulus.** See note on Ep. 23. 4.

Hoc uno malo, &c.; 'the only misfortune that I grudge him, and I doubt if he thinks it a misfortune.' Lord Orrery takes Pliny to task for a want of humanity in disbelieving Regulus' grief. But Pliny is justified by the use which the father is said to have made of his son's name in his perjuries. Ep. 23. 17.

4. **Emancipavit,** 'set him free from the patria potestas.' The boy's mother had left her property to him on the condition that Regulus should first do this. It was worth his doing, because he thus retained his wife's property in the family. It might therefore be said that his son had been sold by him (*mancipatum*) for this consideration, rather than gratuitously emancipated. 'Mancipatus' is coupled with 'venditus' Cic. Phil. 2. 21.

5. **Ex moribus hominis,** 'with an allusion to the character of the man' (Regulus).

8. **Et iunctos et solutos.** See note on Ep. 21. 9.

9. **Luscinias.** Pet birds were kept not by children only, but also by empresses and poets. Cp. Plin. H. N. 10. 59 and 60; and the elegant poem of Statius on the death of his parrot, Stat. Silv. 4. Also cp. the famous 'Passer' of Catullus, Cat. 2.

14. **In Regulo demerendo.** Regulus was now 'orbus,' and therefore an object of interest to legacy-hunters.

18. **Tempore;** this refers to the season of the year, which was trying to his visitors.

20. **Perverse;** generally opposed to 'recte,' 'against right and reason,' so much against them that the wrongdoing seems the result of wilfulness rather than ignorance. Hence the notion of wilfulness now dominant in the English word 'perverse.'

Ep. 37. 6. **Auditorio;** the name of the place put for the persons occupying it, as 'theatra' Ep. 32. 34. Cp. English use of 'pit' and 'gallery.'

7. **De vita eius.** This is simple narration. But **de vita pueri,** which follows, is the scornful reflection of the narrator interrupting himself.

8. **Exemplaria mille.** Whether this be or be not taken literally, it marks the great facility with which copies of books could be made; and harmonizes with our accounts of the low prices at which they could be obtained, e.g. the first book of Martial's Epigrams for five denarii = 3*s.* 1½*d.*

9. **Decurionibus.** See note on 'Duumviratus' Ep. 42. 4.

14. **Ἀμαθία μὲν θράσος,** Thuc. 2. 40.

16. **Latus**; here as elsewhere in the sense of 'lungs,' 'power of voice.'

20. **Herennius.** See note on Ep. 69. 10.

Catonis illud. Pliny might have heard this from his master Quintilian, who quotes it Inst. Or. 12, 1. Quintilian says that if the orator be not a good man to begin with, then the art of his instructor 'comparat haec arma latroni non militi.'

26. **Circulator.** From 'circulus,' a ring of gazers or listeners, are derived 'circulari,' to collect a crowd, and 'circulator,' one who attracts or addresses a crowd. The name was generally applied to conjurors, snake-charmers, and cheap-jacks. They had then, as now, a ready volubility; cp. Sen. Ep. 40, 52, where 'circulor' has its secondary meaning 'to exercise the trade of a circulator.' These performers seem sometimes to have related stories; cp. Ep. 23. 1, where 'assem para' is a parody of the cry of a 'circulator' before beginning his performance.

27. **Ut ait Demosthenes**: Dem. de Cor. 90. The sense is, 'if Lepidus has had to read the work, he will have declaimed it with as much want of feeling as Aeschines showed in speaking of the calamities of his country.'

30. **Sed a puero**; a good instance of Pliny's way of concluding his letter with an epigram.

Ep. 38. 1. **Nos**; Pliny and Sabinus.

14. **Cavit enim.** Sabina is the nominative to 'cavit,' she who chose her heirs discreetly. 'Elegerit,' instead of **elegit**, would have allowed of an indefinite nominative to 'cavit,' and made the sentence (what it now is not) a general observation on the security insured by a good choice.

Ep. 39. 9. **Praetextatus**, added to mark the boy's age.

11. **Mediolani**, at Milan. Milan, at this time a place of importance, rose to great splendour two centuries later as the residence of the emperor Maximian, and is celebrated by Ausonius as the seventh in importance of the cities of the Empire.

13. **Intererat.** 'When it is declared what might or ought to happen, but does not happen (with possum, debeo, &c.) the indic. is commonly made use of, and in the imperfect tense, if in regard to present time' Madvig, § 348, 1.

21. **Mercedibus**, the teacher's pay.

29. **Religio recte iudicandi**, 'scrupulousness in making a right choice.' Cicero's derivation of 'religio' from 'relego' is probably correct, and 'scrupulousness' is often, as here, an adequate translation of the word without throwing in any sense of obligation. The sense given is confirmed by the occurrence of two other compounds of 'lego' immediately below, 'neglegentes,' 'diligentes.'

43. **Quae ad te convenit**; for similar attentions paid to another man of letters cp. the 'frequens cubiculum' of Silius, Ep. 27. 12.

49. **Hinc**, 'from this part of the country.' He classes the Tuscan villa from which he writes in the same region with Rome, by comparison with the distant Comum.

50. **Quam fiduciam.** This, like the close of Ep. 37, is one of those epigrammatic surprises which stamp Pliny's prose as well as Martial's verse with the character of 'Flavian polish and refinement.'

In conclusion it will be worth while to put together what can be gathered from this letter respecting education *in the provinces*.

Schools of two separate kinds were in existence, firstly, government schools, not uncommon ('multis in locis'); and secondly, schools established by public subscription where sufficient money could be raised to engage a teacher. We do not hear of teachers starting schools on a private venture. They expected to be engaged ('conduci') with a certain payment guaranteed. If there was a good school in any place, boys came from a distance and took lodgings in the place to attend it.

Pliny's views set forth in this letter attest not only his generosity and interest in education, but a shrewd judgment in the matter quite on a level with modern opinion. He sees the danger of bad appointments likely to arise from fixed payments and centralization, and he also sees the necessity of some subsidy to encourage local effort.

We must add to the list of his benefits to Comum the establishment of a public library, and an endowment for the support of a certain number of free-born children. Bk. 1. 8.

Ep. 40. 5. Corelli filiam; perhaps the first cousin of Pliny's second wife Calpurnia. See note on the following letter. For Corellius see note on Ep. 7.

15. **Contra**, 'just the other way.'

16. **Penitus inspexi.** Pliny uses the same phrase with reference to Euphrates, Ep. 6. 4; and of Trajan, Pan. 83.

17. **Nihil a me**; supply 'habuit.'

21. **Suffragator et testis.** Cp. 'Testes et laudatores dabat, vel eum sub quo militaverat, vel eum cui quaestor fuerat, vel utrumque si poterat. Addebat quosdam e suffragatoribus: illi graviter et paucis loquebantur' Ep. 34. 15. Though this description refers to an earlier state of things, yet no doubt something of the same order was observed in the time of Pliny.

In inchoandis deductor. See note on Ep. 16. 32.

26. **De bonis iuvenibus.** Pliny was, at the time mentioned, thirty-five years of age, and therefore in the period of 'iuventus,' which succeeded 'adolescentia,' and was reckoned to begin at about the age of thirty.

36. **Cornutum.** Ep. 48 tells us all we know of Cornutus.

41. **Nova lis.** 'Nova' is limited by **ut.**

Foeminae. The action, whatever it was, was of a kind not usually brought against a woman.

Ep. 41. This letter is addressed to Calpurnia Hispulla, daughter of Calpurnius Fabatus, and aunt of Calpurnia, Pliny's second (or third) wife, whom Hispulla had brought up. The fact of her having been brought up by her aunt makes it probable that her mother, as well as her father, must have died when she was a child; and hence we may conclude with Mommsen

(Onomast. Keil's second ed.) that Pompeia Celerina, whom Pliny speaks of as his 'socrus' (Bk. 1. 4.), was not the mother of Calpurnia, but of a former wife of Pliny.

We find Calpurnia hastening to comfort her aunt Hispulla at the death of Fabatus, Hispulla's father, Trai. 120. There is a letter addressed to Fabatus, Bk. 4. 1.

12. **In proximo.** See on Ep. 4. 4. For further proofs of Pliny's conjugal affection see Epp. 54 and 56.

14. **Format,** 'sets them to music.'

26. **Invicem,** 'in turn,' i.e. first a wife for Pliny, then a husband for Calpurnia.

Ep. 42. 1. **In consilium adsumptus.** The emperors had a limited number of advisers, whom they summoned for consultation, just as inferior officers, e.g. praetors and proconsuls summoned their 'consiliarii.' The famous 'Council of the Turbot' (Juv. 4. 73 sqq.), whether real or fictitious, testifies to the existence of this custom, which is said to have been instituted by Augustus. Pliny was often summoned ('frequenter in consilio fui' Ep. 13. 51), as for instance in the trial of Atticinus, Bk. 6. 22, and that of Ariston, with others, Bk. 6. 31. See Merivale, Hist. Emp. c. 67.

2. **Viennenses,** 'the people of Vienne.' Vienna, now Vienne, is situated on the Rhone, not far below Lyons. It was a city of great importance under the Empire, and the site of a flourishing Christian church. The remains of a large amphitheatre still confirm what is here said of the taste of the inhabitants for spectacles. This amphitheatre was probably the scene of many martyrdoms during the great persecution by Aurelius, A.D. 177.

4. **In duumviratu.** The provincial towns were governed by senators ('decuriones'), who elected duumvirs from their own body. The duumvirs united in their persons the functions separately exercised at Rome by the consuls and praetors. The duumvirs were originally elected by the people in each place; but the transference of the Roman comitia to the senate was followed by a similar change in the provinces. Smith's Dict. Ant. art. 'Colonia.'

8. **Cum sententiae perrogarentur.** Cp. 'Parum est ut censentes audias, nisi et perroges' Pan. 60. 'Perrogo'='deinceps rogo,' to ask in order. Here the opinions of the 'consiliarii' were asked all the way down in order as they sat.

9. **Iunius Mauricus.** See note on Ep. 28. 10 sub fin.

11. **Etiam Romae.** These performances had been fostered to excess by Domitian. See Merivale, Hist. Emp. c. 62.

Pliny's assent to the sternness of Mauricus is somewhat inconsistent with what he says to Maximus, Ep. 63, although it be in accordance with his judgment on the Circenses, Ep. 75. See also note on Ep. 64. 13.

14. **Veiento;** his power as a creature of Domitian was so great, that a mere look from him was a boon; Juv. 3. 185. He is recorded as present

with Catullus at the 'Council of the Turbot,' see below, and he still sat in the senate under Trajan, Ep. 77. 64.

16. **Luminibus orbatus.**

'Et cum mortifero prudens Veiento Catullo
Qui nunquam visae flagrabat amore puellae' Juv. 4. 113.

23. **Nobiscum cenaret.** The moderation which Nerva prescribed to himself in regard to this great criminal seems to have marked his dealings with the class (cp. Ep. 77); and the victims of the delators were probably little satisfied with the amount of favour which they (the delators) experienced from him. Merivale, Hist. Emp. c. 63.

Ep. 43. 1. **Scripseram tibi,** viz. in Ep. 54.

6. **Iratum principem.** 'Iratum' is the predicate.

7. **Fefellit.** Cp. 'Nec vixit male qui vivens moriensque fefellit' Hor. Ep. 1. 17. 10.

9. **In senatu.** The emphasis is on these words.

Ep. 44. 1. **Legatum mihi obvenit.** This is that legacy of Curianus which is mentioned towards the close of the letter. It gave Pliny satisfaction because it was a recognition of his honourable conduct in regard to the former legacy, that of Galla, the story of which he proceeds to relate first.

6. **Praeiudicio,** 'by my first giving judgment in his favour.' An opinion given and acted upon by Pliny would have great weight in the centumviral court, in which he was a distinguished pleader. This sense of 'praeiudicium' is quite distinct from the technical sense which it sometimes has of 'a previous trial to clear the way for the determination of the main issues.'

9. **Non satis honestum;** too like the conduct of a 'captator,' a legacy-hunter.

14. **Minorem,** in moral worth. If Curianus could trust to Pliny's honour to judge his own case, why should Pliny distrust himself?

16. **Secundum,** 'in favour of,' for the validity of the will.

22. **Consilii;** i. e. Pliny and his two assessors.

24. **Cum ceteris subscripsit.** Those who brought an action, both plaintiff and counsel, were required to put their names to the notice of action; hence 'subscribere iudicium' or 'subscribere' mean to go to law with a man. 'Subscribere **cum ceteris**' is an unusual construction, to be explained by the sense of the word which = 'certare.' 'Certare' could of course be constructed with 'cum' and abl. Elsewhere we find 'subscribere in aliquem' Cic. Q. F. 3. 3, or a dative following, 'cras subscribam homini dicam' Plaut. Paen. 3. 6, 5.

25. **Centumvirale iudicium:** see note on Ep. 12. 9.

30. **Gratillae amicitia.** Domitian had killed Rusticus, and banished his wife Gratilla. Notorious intimacy with them might have exposed the litigators to a like fate.

32. **Ex parte quarta.** Curianus sought to have his mother's will set aside as 'inofficiosum,' wanting in that provision which a parent is morally

bound to make for a child. This could be done under 'Lex Falcidia' in any case where the natural heirs were not made at least 'heredes ex quadrante,' i.e. did not at least receive a fourth part of the inheritance. If Gratilla had made such a provision, Curianus would have had no ground for action. Or again, she might have made him 'heres ex asse,' but might have exhausted the property by legacies out of it so as to leave him in effect but one fourth of the whole. For this also he would have had no remedy.

34. **Ex asse**, 'to the whole inheritance.' In divisions of property the 'as' was taken to represent the whole.

38. **Biennium.** Two years undisturbed possession gave the possessor a title by 'usus' to real property. Pliny's 'coheredes' had enjoyed their shares of the property as long as he had his, but notice of action had been served on them but not on him.

44. **Antiquum.** The word occurs in Cicero in the same good sense, but Pliny's frequent and habitual use of it is characteristic of his mind, which clung to the old memories of the state, and the forms in which they survived. Cp. Bk. 2. 11, 18, where he couples 'pulcrum' with 'antiquum.' The parenthesis **nisi forte**, &c. refers to 'antiquum.'

Ep. 45. 1. **Turdos**, fieldfares, which were not taken wild when in season, but kept and fed for the table all the year round in 'ornithones.' Even in Varro's time they were sold when fat for about three denarii apiece.

Parem calculum, 'which I cannot match in value.' The Romans learnt to compute by the help of 'calculi,' small stones placed in an 'abacus' or tray, with different compartments for units, tens, and hundreds. Pliny varies his use of the same metaphor of 'calculi' in Bk. 2. 19, and Ep. 9. 38, where see note.

2. **Urbis copiis**, 'city commodities.' His Laurentine villa was only seventeen miles from the city, so that it would be natural for him to send a present of some city luxury to a friend residing further from Rome than himself. The fact that Ostia was the usual market-town of the villa (Ep. 21. 118) presents no real difficulty; and the conjecture 'ullis' for 'urbis' has no MS. authority.

4. **Sollertiam Diomedis.** Diomede's advantageous exchange of his own brazen armour for the golden armour of Glaucus (Hom. Il. 6. 236) gave rise to the proverb *χρύσεα χαλκείων*.

Ep. 46. 4. **Veritate promptissimus.** This abl., unlike the two preceding ablatives, is 'abl. of respect.' **Natura** and **usu** are 'abl. of the means.' 'Veritas' here means a true and accurate statement of the matter on which he was consulted. There is no occasion or authority for reading 'varietate' with Gierig.

6. **Prosecutus.** See note on Ep. 35. 4.

7. **Utcumque**; properly a relative conjunction meaning 'however' or 'whenever,' and followed by a verb. But in this passage it stands alone with an indefinite meaning, and is in fact an adverb. Like 'quandoque,' 'utcumque' reaches this indefinite sense by an ellipse, which may perhaps in this

passage be thus filled up, 'hoc, utcumque id fiat, tolerabile est.' He admits that it is endurable, though he does not clearly see *how* it can be so. For the use cp. 'Excepto quod adhuc utcumque valemus' Ov. Ep. ex Pont. 4. 14. 3.

14. **Acerba**, 'untimely.' The sentence is an apology for applying this epithet to the death, not of a child but of a grown man.

21. **Lectulo.** See note on Ep. 24. 11.

22. **Habitum**, 'attitude.'

Scrinium; not a desk to write upon, but a box to hold what was written.

30. **Frustra**; in preparing materials for another volume, which he was prevented from writing.

Ep. 47. In a bantering humour he personifies the epigrams in which he had promised the appearance of Suetonius' book, and speaks of his verses as having given bail for its appearance, and being called upon in legal form to answer their obligation. For Suetonius see on Ep. 12.

2. **Appellantur.** 'Hendecasyllabi' is the nominative to this verb, and also to 'cogantur,' since 'scripta' must evidently be supplied as an accus. after **ad exhibendum.**

3. **Ad exhibendum formulam accipere**, to undergo legal proceedings, such as to make them bring the 'scripta' into court. These 'formulae' were drawn to suit every variety of case, and from them the plaintiff chose that which suited him, and inserted his own particulars. 'Formulam intendere' was said of the plaintiff, 'formulam accipere' of the defendant. 'Exhibere' is a technical term, meaning 'to bring into court.' The use of the gerund in this passage is remarkable; and, as it stands after 'formulam recipere,' it must be translated 'with regard to bringing them forward.' 'Ad' with the gerund is not employed in final clauses for 'ut' with subj.

6. **Vicisti**, 'you have surpassed.'

8. **Scazontes**, or 'choliambi,' 'limping iambics,' were so called from *σκάζω*, 'to limp,' and are iambic trimeters with a spondee or trochee in the place of the final iambus. They were invented by Hipponax of Elis, who recorded in this metre his experience of the married state:

Δύ' ἡμέραι γυναικὸς εἰσιν ἥδισται,
Ὅταν γαμῇ τις κἀκφέρῃ τεθνηκυῖαν.

Scazons were not exclusively employed for satire, witness Catullus' beautiful poem on Sirmio. Cat. 29.

10. **Titulum tuum.** See note on 'indicis' Ep. 25. 3.

Ep. 48. 1. **Municipium**, sc. Comum.

2. **Aemiliae viae curam.** 'Quatuorviri viis curandis' had existed under the republic; but Augustus increased their number, separated the care of the roads within the city from that of the roads without it, and finally gave a lasting dignity to the office by himself undertaking the care of the 'via Flaminia,' and allotting the other 'viae' to men of note.

Under the 'Curatores' were 'mancipes,' who contracted to perform the repairs which the former thought necessary.

7. **Mandatum mihi officium.** Two concurrent inscriptions lead us to suppose that this office was that of 'curator alvei Tiberis et riparum' to which the office of Cornutus might be said to be **par.** Cp. Suet. Aug. 37, where we find the two charges put side by side, 'curam viarum, aquarum, alvei Tiberis.'

10. **Expressius:** see note on Ep. 20. 7.

29. **Aliis litteris**; namely, belles lettres.

31. **Commeatus,** 'leave of absence.'

Ep. 49. 17. Acerbum: see note on Ep. 46. 14.

22. **Ut . . . invenit,** 'with the inventiveness which grief gives of all the details of mourning.'

23. **Margarita,** chiefly used for earrings, which were often very costly. 'Margaritarii,' dealers in pearls, are mentioned in extant inscriptions. 'Margarita' and 'margaritum' are various forms of the nom. sing.

28. **Pietatis est totus.** Cp. 'hominum non caussarum toti erant,' Liv. 3. 36. The idiom is classical and frequent, but is more properly used of devotion to persons than to things.

This whole letter will bear comparison for elegance with any in the collection, not excepting Ep. 16.

Ep. 50. 1. Tuos, 'your slaves and freedmen.'

8. **Inscriptio.** This word alludes to the 'titulus' fastened on slaves for sale, describing their age and qualifications. Cp. 'qui titulum illi impegerat,' i. e. the man who had sold him, Sen. Ep. 47.

Comoedus: see note on Ep. 24. 36. Zosimus seems also to have had the qualifications of a 'lyristes.'

21. **Nimis imperat vocі,** 'asks too much from his voice.' Cp. 'Alius patrimonio suo plus imperavit quam ferre posset' Sen. Tranq. 4.

23. **Foro Iuli,** Fréjus, on the warm south coast of Gaul, which was even then resorted to by consumptive patients.

29. **Frugalitate.** Pliny's kindness to Zosimus was met by a delicacy on his part which makes this pleasant picture of humanity complete. Paulinus, to whom the letter was addressed, remembered Pliny's conduct in this matter, and at his death left him, 'ius Latinorum suorum,' the claims of a patron over his freedmen, who, though manumitted, yet possessed only the 'Latinitas' or Latin rights under the 'Lex Iulia Norbana,' and hence were called 'Latini.' The position of a patron of 'Latini' was valuable, and gave claim to various services to be rendered by them. Pliny justified the confidence of Paulinus by obtaining from Trajan full citizenship for three of them, Trai. 104.

Ep. 51. 4. Ut venissem, 'when I should have come.'

5. **Graviter iacet:** see note on Ep. 23. 3.

6. **Ne hoc quidem triste.** The probability of his death is not really sad, for it will bring him relief.

Illius utilitatibus, by the consideration of his own gain. 'Utilitates' and 'commoda' are coupled by Cic. de Fin. 1. 10. 'Utilitas,' usefulness;

'utilitates,' gains. For the rule concerning plurals of substantives of abstract meaning, see Madvig, § 50, Obs. 3.

16. **Sine fructu posteritatis**, without producing their legitimate fruit of lasting fame, see on Ep. 16. 5.

17. **Abierunt.** The 'editio princeps' substitutes 'aruerunt,' which would suit the metaphor suggested by various parts of the passage; such as, **in flore primo; maturuissent; sine fructu.**

Frenos. In the case of those substantives which have more than one plural form, the neuter form is usually confined to poetical use; cp. 'ostreae, ostrea,' and 'sibili, sibila.'

Ep. 52. 1. **Quaerere:** cp. 'quaerit patria Caesarem' Hor. Carm. 4. 5, 15.

M. Regulum: see on Ep. 23. 4.

3. **Quamvis non posset ediscere.** Regulus wrote and prepared his speeches with great care, but never could quite get them by heart, which spoiled their effect.

It will be worth while to examine the history of this passage as an instance of the way in which the text was corrupted for want of a close adherence to MSS. The Medicean MS. read, for 'posset ediscere,' 'posse te discere.' Catanaeus, an early editor, saw this would not do, and cutting 'te' in two, restored 't' to the previous 'posse,' and 'e' to the following 'discere.' But not content with this he introduced 'd,' and printed 'quamvis non posset dediscere.' He then removed the full stop, and took **illud ipsum** and the following sentence as the accusative of 'dediscere,' introducing hopeless confusion, and compelling the reader to take **veniebat** as an impersonal verb. This confusion was perpetuated by Cortius, and all the inferior modern editions, e. g. the Tauchnitz edition.

5. **Circumlinebat**; with paint.

10. **Una dicentibus**, 'to the counsel engaged in the same case;' not, 'on the same side.'

Libera tempora. Cn. Pompeius, by a law passed in his third consulship, defined the proportions of time to be allotted to the accuser and the accused respectively. The enactment was primarily to regulate the trial of Milo then about to take place, Ascon. Arg. Cic. pro Mil. The proportion was apparently that of two to three, and was measured by 'clepsydrae.' But if the plaintiff or prosecutor asked for 'libera tempora,' *un*limited time, then the same privilege was necessarily granted to the other side.

11. **Aduituros corrogabat.** For Pliny's opinion on the custom of inviting or hiring an audience, cp. Ep. 20. 15.

12. **Sub alterius invidia.** Regulus bore all the odium attaching to a protracted trial and a packed audience. Pliny reaped the advantages of unrestricted time for his oratory and a crowd of listeners, in the midst of which he found himself 'caught,' as he expresses it. He had not brought them, but there they were. The remembrance of all this is what leads him to look for Regulus, 'quaerere Regulum,' with a sort of half regret.

18. **Binas vel singulas.** In the trial of Marius Priscus (Bk. 2. 11) Pliny spoke through sixteen clepsydrae, and his speech lasted nearly five hours. As that trial took place in January, these five hours would be equivalent to about four hours of our time. See note on Ep. 25. 28. Hence 'binas vel singulas' would be 'half an hour or a quarter of an hour apiece.'

29. **Fidei,** to the obligation of their duty to their clients.

39. **Communium.** This is the MSS. reading, but 'communia' in the sense of 'public interests' is unparalleled. The earliest editors seem to have either felt the difficulty or to have had another reading before them, as they insert 'civium.' Mommsen's emendation 'amore communi omnium' is probable, and it is easy to imagine that the two latter words may have run into one.

Emendari cupere quae iam corrigere difficile est. Why 'emendare' is spoken of as easier than 'corrigere' may be seen by considering the metaphors involved in them. It is a less matter to remove a few *blemishes* ('mendae'), than to *straighten* throughout a thing which has grown crooked.

41. **Mihi autem;** this sentence explains to Arrianus why he is to take 'no news,' **novi nihil,** for 'good news.'

Ep. 53. Pliny practised what Cicero preached, 'nutrices et paedagogi iure vetustatis plurimum benevolentiae postulabunt' Cic. Lael. 20. Nurses have their place both in the epic and the tragic poetry of Greece and Rome.

Ep. 54. 3. **In Campaniam,** perhaps to Baiae. Pliny the elder describes the whole coast as possessing 'vitalis ac perennis salubritas.'

E vestigio, 'immediately.'

6. **Ecquid denique.** Pliny is anxious to know if his wife is enjoying the delights of Campania without being retarded in her recovery by indulgence in them.

7. **Transmitto** means to let go by one, yet not so as to miss or neglect. By zeugma it is here joined to both 'secessus' and 'voluptates.'

Ep. 55. 6. **Omnium quae decucurri candidatus,** 'candidate for all the offices which I have successively enjoyed.' Compounds of 'curro' may either retain or drop the augment. Cp. 'decursu honorum' Cic. de Or. 1. 1.

12. **Quintilianum:** see on Ep. 20. 34.

13. **Ventitabat** = *ἐφοίτα.*

15. **In senatu,** where the magistrates were now elected, the result of the election being announced to the people who continued to meet for this purpose long after the loss of their power to elect. The elections retained their original name of 'comitia,' which properly belonged to the popular assembly. Cp. 'E campo comitia ad patres translata sunt' Tac. Ann. 1. 15. This change was made under Tiberius.

24. **Cum fratre,** probably Julius Avitus, whose death is lamented in Ep. 51.

28. **Suffragio meo.** On the importance of influential 'suffragatores' see on Ep. 40. 21.

Ep. 56. 1. Adfici: see on Ep. 24. 35.

3. **In vestigio meo**, in the place where I used to sit or lie. 'Vestigium a Latinis dicitur de loco ubi quis fuerit, licet vestigia eius appareant nulla' Gierig. Cp. 'isdem vestigiis institisti' Pan. 23.

Ep. 57. 1. Socrus meae, Pompeia Celerina.

Villam Alsiensem; near Alsium, a seaside town of Etruria. A list of Pompeia's other villas will be found Bk. 1. 4.

2. **Rufi Vergini.** Ep. 16 is a panegyric of Verginius.

10. **Post decimum mortis annum.** This determines the date of this letter as not earlier than 107 A.D. It is therefore (except Bk. 9. 19 referring to the same subject) the latest of the whole series to which a date can be affixed.

11. **Sine titulo**, 'without an epitaph.' For this sense of 'titulus' cp.

'Titulique cupido
Haesuri saxis cinerum custodibus' Juv. 10. 243.

15. **Pulso Vindice.** Julius Vindex, propraetor of Gaul, rose against Nero, having first offered the empire to Galba. Verginius commanding in upper Germany marched against the insurgents, and his army engaged and defeated them in spite of an agreement which is said to have been come to between the generals on either side.

16. **Adseruit non sibi.** He proved his disinterestedness by refusing the empire which was offered to him. See on Ep. 16. 4.

17. **Parata oblivio**: see on Ep. 25. 30.

18. **Conditoria** were sepulchres underground, in which dead bodies were placed entire as distinguished from those sepulchres or chambers which contained bones or ashes only. Smith's Dict. Ant. art. 'Funus.'

Ep. 58. 2. Excepit; an inverted idiom: 'the story fell in with me,' instead of 'I fell in with the story.'

Passennus Paulus; Pliny's affection and admiration for him is expressed at length Bk. 9. 22.

4. **Municeps Propertii.** Propertius was of Mevania, an Umbrian town.

6. **Prisce iubes**, the first words of the poem of Paulus.

7. **Ego vero non iubeo.** Pliny's gentlemanly feeling was naturally outraged by this vulgar wit of Javolenus. Certain German critics have thought fit to defend Javolenus. One of these critics (who was also a lawyer) is thus amusingly answered by Gierig, 'non carpit noster merita Iavoleni; id unum modo tradit, eum senem dubiae esse sanitatis. Et quis tandem neget ICtos quoque nobiles, urgente senectute, huic naturae humanae imbecillitati esse obnoxios.'

9. **Adhibetur consiliis**, to act as praetor's assessor. See on Ep. 42.

10. **Ius civile respondet.** For the construction of 'respondeo' with an accus. cp.

'Seu civica iura
Respondere paras' Hor. Ep. 1. 3, 23.

The Jurisconsulti gave their opinion on points of law in public and in private

to those who inquired. There appear to have been two classes of Jurisconsulti, those who held an imperial privilege of being consulted, 'ius respondendi,' and those who did not. The opinions of the former class had of course far greater weight in court.

Ep. 59. 1. Avunculi mei. For an account of the life and studies of Pliny the elder, see Ep. 25.

3. **Inmortalem gloriam.** He expresses the same confidence in the immortality of the works of Tacitus, Ep. 69. 1. We do not know whether Tacitus availed himself of the materials here sent him, as the extant portion of the 'Histories' breaks off ten years before the eruption.

4. **Pulcherrimarum clade terrarum**; 'clade' is an ablative belonging to **occiderit**, denoting the cause of Pliny's death.

Ut populi, ut urbes, 'as nations and cities did (i. e. perish).' Probably this refers to Herculaneum and Pompeii, whose inhabitants are with some affectation styled 'populi.' Some commentators have understood the passage as a comparison of Pliny's fame with that of such a town as Saguntum.

5. **Memorabili casu,** abl. after **victurus,** denoting the cause of his immortality.

12. **Erat Miseni.** Suetonius says of Augustus, 'classem Miseni et alteram Ravennae ad tutelam superi et inferi maris collocavit' Suet. Aug. 49. This arrangement seems to have been permanently maintained, and we find references in Tacitus both to the fleet of the Lower sea at Misenum, and to that of the Higher or Adriatic sea at Ravenna. The promontory of Misenum forms the northern limit of the 'Sinus Cumanus' or bay of Naples.

15. **Usus ille sole, mox frigida.** Cp. 'Post solem plerumque frigida lavabatur' Ep. 25. 39.

Gustaverat, 'had taken some luncheon.' 'Gusto' is used intransitively in this sense.

26. **Liburnicam,** a vessel built in imitation of those used by the Liburnians of Dalmatia. It seems to have had sharp bows and consequent swiftness. Juvenal mentions slaves from the same district. Orelli understands by 'saevis Liburnis' Hor. Carm. 1. 37, 30, the vessels and not the slaves. Whatever the Liburnica was, it is at any rate here contrasted with the larger **quadriremes,** which are launched when the voyage is changed (**vertit ille consilium**) from purposes of curiosity to those of succour.

29. **Rectinae Tasci**: cp. 'Verania Pisonis' Ep. 23. 3.

30. **Subiacebat,** sc. 'monti.'

43. **Stabiis,** Castellamare, a village on the side of the bay opposite Misenum, and looking north-west.

Erat, sc. Pomponianus.

44. **Diremptus sinu medio,** 'separated' from Pliny by the bay which lay between them.

47. **Certus fugae,** 'determined on flight.' The poets and the later prose writers use the genitive even after adjectives not strictly transitive in sense,

to denote a certain reference to a thing which is otherwise expressed by the ablative (*with respect to*) alone, or by the ablative with the prepositions 'de' or 'in' Madvig, § 290 g.

50. **Leniret.** See on Ep. 68. 43.

82. **Is ab eo quem novissime viderat erat tertius,** 'and it was the third day from the last which he had seen.' He had died the day before, but he had not seen daylight since the day before that. Hence Pliny is able to make a sort of quibble on the common phrase 'novissimus dies,' which usually meant the day of a man's death, but in this case must be applied to the day before death, as the day of death was no day at all, **dies alibi, illic nox omnibus nigrior densiorque.** 'Erat' is a conjectural insertion by Mommsen. It makes the construction smoother, and might easily have dropped out after 'viderat.'

Ep. 60. 4. Ne pecunias deponant, i. e. with 'sequestres,' by whom the money was distributed to the voters after the candidate was elected.

7. **Homullus noster**; he is found cating with Pliny, Bk. 4. 9.

8. **Sententiae loco,** 'as a resolution,' literally, 'on the occasion of his opinion.' Each senator was asked in turn for his 'sententia' on the subject under discussion, and if he did not agree with previous speakers, he gave his opinion under the form of a resolution, which was put to the vote at the end of the debate if it seemed likely to command any support.

10. **Sua,** sc. 'principis:' a lax use of 'suus.'

15. **Et erat,** sc. **deforme.**

17. **Quoque,** sc. 'et quo.' 'Quo'='ut.'

Ep. 61. 1. Litteris, Ep. 59. This letter resumes the narrative broken off in Ep. 59 at the words 'Interim Miseni ego et mater.'

4. **Quamquam animus meminisse horret,** Virg. Aen. 2. 12.

12. **In area domus**; a vacant space left outside a town house (domus). Here it intervened between the house and the sea shore. 'Area' must not be confounded with 'atrium.'

21. **Dies,** 'daylight.'

32. **Processerat litus.** This happened on the other side of the bay also; cp. 'vadum subitum ruinaque montis litora obstantia' Ep. 59. 40.

44. **Miseni quod procurrit,** the promontory of Misenum.

48. **Addere gradum,** a colloquial phrase for moving quickly forward. Cp. 'in utroque agmine adhortationes erant; adderent gradum' Liv. 3. 27. Like most colloquial expressions it is obscure in its origin, and probably elliptical; perhaps it may have been in full 'addere gradum gradui,' to make one step after another, to put one foot before the other.

54. **Consideramus**; **i** for **e** in the penultimate of the perfect is found both in 'sido' and its compound 'consido.' Hence from 'considi' comes 'consideram.'

Et nox, sc. 'facta est.' 'Et' has a temporal force.

56. **Quiritatus,** appealing cries. 'Quiritare' and 'quiritatus' are not connected with 'queror,' but, as Varro shows, are derived from the old

formula of appeal to the citizens, 'Porro Quirites,' used by those in danger of injustice or illtreatment. Varr. de Ling. Lat. 5. 7. So in a fragment of Laberius, preserved in Macrob. Sat. 2. 7, we find the words 'Porro Quirites, libertatem perdimus,' put into the mouth of a man who is being scourged.

63. **Illud . . . illud,** this part and that part of the town.

71. **Misero,** to be construed with **solacio.**

74. **Deficit,** the proper word for eclipse. Cp. 'Solis defectiones itemque lunae praedicuntur in multos annos' Cic. de Div. 2. 6.

77. **Utcumque:** see note on Ep. 46. 7.

Ep. 62. 1. **Tollite cuncta,** the address of Vulcan to his Cyclopes, Virg. Aen. 8. 439.

3. **Illa arma,** the arms to be made for Aeneas. The comparison is not exact, as Vulcan did not bring the arms, but the order for them.

8. **Intra undecim dies, quam.** This involved idiom requires to be traced carefully. The simplest construction would have been 'undecim diebus postquam.' But sometimes 'post' is transferred to the beginning of the sentence, and the phrase left to stand thus, 'post undecim dies quam' Madvig, § 270, Obs. 4, note; cp. § 276, Obs. 6. But in the present instance 'post' would not exactly express the meaning of the writer, and 'intra' is substituted for it. Thus 'post' disappears from the sentence, but 'quam,' which belonged to it syntactically, is nevertheless retained, and forced into conjunction with 'intra.' Cp. 'intra quintum quam affuerat diem' Suet. Jul. 35. Such instances of the construction proper to one particle being applied to another, are characteristic of a decaying language.

9. **Quadruplici iudicio:** see note on Ep. 12. 9.

12. **Advocatio,** sc. 'advocati.' Cp. 'cum ingenti advocatione' Liv. 3. 47.

Subsellia, occupied by the audience. The same terms are employed in the description of the court, Ep. 20. 25.

14. **Tribunal,** the raised dais at the further end of the basilica, on which the judges sat. It was sometimes thrown back in the form of an apse, and on the conversion of basilicas into churches became the sanctuary where the altar was placed.

Ex superiore basilicae parte, the galleries, which are somewhat obscurely described by Vitruvius 5. 1. It was difficult for persons in them to hear the proceedings, but easy to look down and see them. They were reached by a staircase from the outside of the building. They were defended by a low balustrade from the hall within, and were probably open to the air, being little more than the roofs of the side aisles.

18. **Duobus consiliis,** by the verdict of two out of the four 'consilia' into which the 180 judges were divided. It appears at first sight that the verdict of two out of the four carried the day in Pliny's favour. But as two points on which he was successful are mentioned below, **victa noverca . . . victus Suberinus,** it may be that each of the four 'consilia,' though sitting together, gave its verdict on a different issue in the case, and that

only those two instances are mentioned in which the verdict was favourable.

20. **Isdem iudicibus,** not of course *individually* the same, but judges of different divisions of the *same* centumviral court.

21. **Non ... videretur.** See Madv. § 357. 2, b: 'I use the word chance, but I don't mean to say that it looked like chance.' Perhaps he hints at the possibility of bribery.

40. **Ὑπὲρ Κτησιφῶντος,** is as much my best as that is Demosthenes' best.

Ep. 63. 1. **Recte fecisti:** see note on Ep. 42. 11.

Veronensibus nostris, 'nostris' because Verona was in 'Italia Transpadana,' 'illa nostra Italia' Ep. 9. 13, in which Comum, Pliny's birthplace, was situated.

2. **Olim amaris,** 'you are now and have long been loved.' This use of 'olim' where Cicero would use 'iamdudum' is characteristic of the Silver Age. Cp.

'Sed olim
Prodigio par est in nobilitate senectus' Juv. 4. 96,

where see Mayor's note.

The classical uses of 'olim' are as follows: (1) of *past* time—once, formerly; (2) of *future* time—one day, a time will come when; (3) of *repeated* occurrence—now and then.

9. **Africanae,** wild beasts, especially panthers. A 'venatio' was to have been combined with a gladiatorial exhibition, as was done in the Roman 'ludi circenses.' 'Venationes' consisted either of the destruction of criminals by wild beasts, or of the destruction of the beasts by trained 'bestiarii.' Cp. 'aut homo imbecillus a valentissima bestia laniatur, aut praeclara bestia venabulo transverberatur' Cic. Fam. 7. 1.

10. **Ad praefinitum diem:** see note on Ep. 26. 26.

11. **Acceptum fieret;** *passive* of 'acceptum facere,' which means to set down as having been received from a man. The phrase is used of a debt which has been paid or is regarded as paid, as in Bk. 2. 4, 'quicquid mihi pater tuus debuit acceptum tibi fieri iubebo.' Hence the passage above means, 'you have deserved that you should be considered to have fulfilled your promise.' 'Acceptum ferre' differs in sense from 'acceptum facere,' and means to enter as owed on the debit side of one's account book. So the man who scratches out an old debt to himself on the credit side of his book is said 'acceptum facere,' whereas he might be said 'acceptum ferre' when he enters a debt from himself to some one else on the debit side. **Tibi** is 'dativus commodi.'

Ep. 64. 2. **Proscribi,** 'to be advertised for sale.' This was done then, as now, by putting up on the property a notice (titulus) to that effect. Cp. 'proscribebatur tamen (domus)' Ep. 68. 28.

Pro meo quincunce ex septingentis millibus, 'as my five twelfths out of (a total of) seven hundred thousand sesterces.' In estimating

the value of Pliny's share of the land Hermes reckoned the whole estate at two hundred thousand sesterces below its real value, so that Corellia got the part which she bought from him very cheaply.

9. **Corelli Rufi**: see note on Ep. 7.

13. **Ludis meis**; the 'ludi Circenses vel Apollinares' were given by the praetor, in accordance with the 'carmen' which had ordered their institution when the Carthaginians were in Italy, B.C. 212. They were at first vowed afresh every year; but in consequence of a pestilence, B. C. 208, a law was passed 'ut hi ludi in perpetuum in statam diem voverentur' Liv. 27. 23. The appointed day was July 5.

Praesederit. Pliny had probably absented himself to mark his indifference to popular amusements. Cp. 'Circenses erant, quo genere spectaculi ne levissime quidem teneor' Ep. 75. 3.

14. **Circa Larium nostrum.** For 'nostrum' cp. 'huius (Larii lacus) in litore plures villae meae' Ep. 76. 4.

16. **His enim cedere.** 'Cedo' here governs an abl. ('his') besides its usual dative (Corelliae). Cp. 'nisi sibi possessione hortorum cessisset' Cic. pro Mil. 27.

Ep. 65. This letter shows how Corellia had responded to the liberality which had been shown her.

2. **Ex septingentis**; see note on the preceding letter.

4. **Partem vicesimam.** This succession duty of five per cent. had been imposed by Augustus, and was the only direct tax levied on Roman citizens. It was paid on all inheritances except those which came from a man's nearest relatives, or did not exceed a certain sum. It was collected by 'procuratores,' who in turn farmed it out to 'publicani.' From this passage it seems to have been taken in kind, unless some compromise could be arrived at. The 'publicani' appear to have laid hands on a twentieth part of the estate, and in buying back from them Corellia had become aware of the real value of the property.

Ep. 66. 1. **Municipibus nostris**; the people of Comum. In Ep. 3. 1 we learn that Caninius was Pliny's fellow-citizen.

2. **Epulum.** In an inscription found at Milan (Gruter, Insc. 1028), Pliny himself is said to have left funds for a similar purpose.

3. **Numeres.** See note on Ep. 31. 34, and Madvig, § 353.

7. **In alimenta ingenuorum.** He speaks in Bk. 1. 8 of the oration in which he promised this endowment to his countrymen at Comum, and the inscription mentioned above records also his liberality to the free-born youth of Milan. Pliny was in this matter following the example of his master Trajan, who had provided maintenance at his own expense for five thousand children (probably in Rome), Pan. 28. The tablet of Veleia shows that the emperor's liberality also extended to the country towns. The alimentation was continued up to the eighteenth year for males, and the fourteenth for females. The object seems to have been to recruit the free-born population by inducing needy parents not to expose their children, but

to rear them in hope of receiving assistance. It was not merely a provision for orphans, though they may have been included in its benefits. See Merivale, Hist. Emp. c. 63.

8. **Longe pluris**, worth a great deal more than five hundred thousand sestertii.

Actori publico; the clerk who received and disbursed the revenues of a city, just as the 'actores privati' did in the case of private estates. Cp. Ep. 33. 7.

Mancipavi, 'I conveyed.' It was not a real sale, as Pliny only handed it over in order to receive it back.

9. **Tricena milia.** He thus established a perpetual rent-charge on this portion of his estate amounting to thirty thousand sestertii. This made exactly the same provision for the charity at Comum as a direct gift of a capital ('sors') of five hundred thousand sestertii would have done. For the interest of that sum at the usual rate of one-half per cent. per mensem, or six per cent. ('semissium usura'), would have amounted to the same sum, thirty thousand sestertii per annum.

We have in this matter another instance of Pliny's clearsightedness, parallel to that noticed on Ep. 39. The deterioration and even absolute loss of charitable and educational landed endowments in this country is familiar to all students of local history. Pliny's scheme seems free from all objection, as it was calculated to insure the safety of the endowment without breaking up his own estate. 'Vectigales agri' were recognised by the Roman law: the lessees had a right to retain the land so long as they paid the charges due, and this right in the land could probably be disposed of by will. At any rate, in the conclusion of the letter Pliny seems to contemplate the land as remaining in his disposition, though lowered in value by more than the amount of the charge on it, from the fact of its being 'vectigalis.'

16. **Diligentius muneri suo consulere**, 'to be more careful for the security of one's gift than the interests of one's property.' 'Se' and 'suus' sometimes stand in universal assertions (without being referred to a definite subject preceding) in the signification, of 'one's self,' 'one's own,' Madvig, § 490, Obs. 5.

Ep. 67. 1. **Fanniae**: see note on Ep. 28. 10.

Adsidet: for this special sense, cp. 'nihil scribere adsidenti vacat' Ep. 14. 45.

16. **Mettio Caro.** The share of this man in the death of Helvidius is alluded to in a previous letter, where he is made to speak of Senecio as one of his victims, 'mei mortui' Bk. 1. 5.

17. **Commentarios**; the diaries and note-books of Helvidius. Caesar gave this name of 'commentaries' to his works 'quod nudi essent omni ornatu orationis' Cic. Brut. 75.

21. **Abolitos senatus consulto.** Cp. 'Non in ipsos modo auctores sed in libros quoque eorum saevitum, delegato triumviris ministerio ut monumenta clarissimorum ingeniorum in comitio ac foro urerentur' Tac. Agr. 2.

Servavit; Fannia contrived to preserve one copy.

25. **Viri**, 'we men.'

30. **Novissima**, 'the last of the race;' the last, that is to say, endued with the virtues of the race. Cp. 'C. Cassium Romanorum ultimum' Tac. Ann. 4. 34.

38. **Ultor reversarum.** See Ep. 77. 24.

Non feci tamen paria. Cp. 'parem calculum ponere' Ep. 45. 1.

Ep. 68. 5. **Curtio Rufo.** This story is confirmed by Tac. Ann. 11. 21. Curtius owed his promotion to Tiberius, so the tale was an old one.

6. **Obtinenti Africam**, the magistrate in charge of the province.

27. **Longior**='diuturnior,' lasting longer than the sights and sounds which caused it.

28. **Monstro.** 'Mostellum,' the diminutive of 'monstrum,' also means a 'ghost,' and hence the name of Plautus's comedy, 'Mostellaria.'

Proscribebatur: see on Ep. 64. 2.

30. **Athenodorus**, said to have been tutor to Augustus. This therefore is another old story, and Lucian also gives a version of it with different names.

39. **Auribusque praetendere**, sc. 'animum;' i.e. 'animo aures custodire ne vana audiant.' His hands were engaged in writing, so we can neither take 'praetendere' absolutely nor supply 'manum.' 'Praetendere animum auribus' is a bold and poetical expression; but not more so than our own phrase 'to shut one's ear to a story,' which, like the Latin, represents as a physical act that which is really no more than a determination of the mind.

43. **Ut paulum expectaret manu significat.** 'The *historical* present is conceived and treated with reference to the propositions depending upon it, sometimes as an actual present, sometimes (according to the signification) as a perfect.' Madvig, § 382, Obs. 3. Cp. above **dimittit ... intendit ... ne fingeret.** The sequence of tenses would of course require 'fingat,' 'expectet,' after present tenses which were not historical.

61. **In paedagogio.** 'Paedagogium' was the name, not of a part of the house, but of the company of young slaves among whom this slave was sleeping. At any rate this is the sense of the word in all the other passages where it occurs.

67. **A Caro**, one of Domitian's informers, mentioned in the preceding letter. He knew he had made Pliny his enemy by his share in the death of Pliny's friend Senecio, and in the exile of Fannia widow of Helvidius. He would therefore naturally endeavour to put him out of the way.

69. **Moris est submittere capillum.** For this custom cp.

'Cuius manantia fletu
Ora puellares faciunt incerta capilli' Juv. 15. 136.

74. **Ex altera**; to fill up the sense supply 'disputa' from **disputes** above. 'Altera' here stands for 'alterutra,' 'one or the other,' as in Cic. Att. 11. 18 'Quorum fortasse utrumque erit; alterum certe.' Pliny begs his correspondent to convince him one way or the other.

Ep. 69. 1. Historias tuas. The trial of Massa would come within the scope of the 'historiae' of Tacitus properly so called. It occurred in the reign of Domitian about the time of Agricola's death, as we learn from Tac. Agr. sub fin. 'Massa Baebius iam tum reus erat.' But inasmuch as the extant portion of the 'Histories' does not bring us further than the midst of the reign of Vespasian, we have no means of knowing whether Pliny's wish was gratified, though we do know that his presentiment was disappointed.

3. **Ab optimo quoque artifice.** The whole letter is an imitation of Cicero's letter to Lucceius the historian urging a similar request, Cic. Fam. 5. 12. Even the illustration from art occurring here is borrowed from Cicero; cp. 'Neque enim Alexander ille gratiae causa ab Apelle potissimum pingi et a Lysippo fingi volebat; sed quod illorum artem cum ipsis tum etiam sibi gloriae fore putabat.'

7. **In publicis actis,** the daily gazette published at Rome under the empire, otherwise known as 'acta diurna,' or 'diurna.' These gazettes are spoken of as being read in the armies and the provinces, Tac. Ann. 15. 22.

10. **Herennio Senecione,** put to death by Domitian on various charges, one of them that of having composed the life of Helvidius Priscus, Ep. 67. 14. Tacitus pays a tribute to his integrity, 'nos innocenti sanguine Senecio perfudit' Tac. Agr. sub fin.

11. **Provinciae Baeticae,** Andalusia, the southernmost province of Spain. It derived its name from the river Baetis (Guadalquivir) which traverses it from east to west. It is cut off from inland Spain by the Sierra Morena, and open only on its south-western coast. This fact explains its connection with Africa under the Empire (cp. 'Priscus ex Baetica ex Africa Classicus' Bk. 3. 9.) and also, later, under the Vandals and the Moors. The province seems to have been unlucky in its rulers. Twice after the trial of Massa they came to Rome with accusations against Classicus, and against Gallus. In the case of Classicus they prevailed on Pliny to appear for them again, Bk. 3. 4, and the trial is related at length in the ninth letter of the same book. In the case of Gallus he resolved to remain neutral.

12. **Ut bona eius publice custodirentur;** this was to be done in order that restitution might be made out of them to the provincials.

16. **Ne bona dissipari sinant quorum esse in custodia debent,** 'that they (the consuls) would not allow the property to be made away with, in charge of which they ought to be.' The antecedent of 'quorum' is 'bona,' not 'consules,' nor 'ab iis' understood. Either of the latter antecedents makes the position of 'esse' between 'quorum' and 'in custodia' extremely harsh and unnatural. If, on the other hand, 'esse in custodia' be considered as one phrase all is smooth. This explanation (so far as I am aware, original) is supported by 'cum in eiusdem anni custodia te atque L. Murenam fortuna posuisset' Cic. pro Mur. 31; 'retinendus est animus in custodia corporis' Cic. Rep. 6. 15; in which instances the genitives

'anni,' and 'corporis,' both express, not that which exercised the 'custodia,' but that *over* which it was exercised. The Medicean reading 'dissipari' may therefore be retained.

'Debent,' 'ought to be,' by the decree of the senate mentioned above, 'ut bona eius,' &c. This decree, it seems, had not been properly attended to by the consuls.

20. **Cui nulla cum provincia necessitudo.** This was in Pliny's early days. Later in life he calls this same province of Baetica 'provinciam quam tot officiis meis devinxerim' Bk. 1. 7.

27. **Impietatis.** The crime of 'maiestas,' high treason, might also be styled 'impietas,' disloyalty. Cp. Pan. 33.

29. **Praevaricationem:** see on Ep. 13. 4.

31. **Privatus.** Nerva was probably at that time in exile at Tarentum, having been banished by Domitian.

36. **Notiora, clariora, maiora.** It is plain by the sense which he attaches to 'maiora,' Ep. 31. 50, 'alia clariora esse alia maiora,' that he does wish the historian to make more of the affair than it deserved, in spite **quamquam non exigo**, &c. He is however not so unblushing as Cicero. Cp. **honeste factis veritas sufficit** with 'amorique nostro plusculum etiam quam concedit veritas largiare' Cic. l. c.

Ep. 70. 2. Vindemias. Masson thinks that these 'vindemiae' were the 'partes' or proportion of the produce which Pliny had arranged to receive from his tenants in lieu of rent, Ep. 83. 12.

Certatim, by auction.

3. **Invitabat**, sc. 'negotiatores.'

8. **Paria peccata**; a favourite maxim with the Stoics. Cicero states it broadly 'nec minus delinquere eum qui gallum gallinaceum, cum opus non fuerit, quam qui patrem suffocaverit' Mur. 29. Pliny's thought is this: 'if all bad deeds are equally blameable, then all good ones are equally praiseworthy;' hence the importance of accurate justice even towards these dealers.

9. 'Nemo ex hac numero mihi non donatus abibit' Virg. Aen. 5. 305.

18. **Tulerunt**, 'carried off,' as a remission.

20. **Reposuisse**: 'reponere' means to pay, whether it consist in 'replacing' what had been at first received, or in returning an equivalent, as in this place. Cp.

'Semper ego auditor tantum nunquamne reponam?'
Juv. 1. 1.

Verum, 'right.' Cp.

'Metiri se quemque suo modulo ac pede verum est'
Hor. Ep. 1. 7, 98.

82. **Una pertica**, 'by one rule.' 'Pertica'='decempeda.'

31. Ἐν δὲ ἑῇ τιμῇ Hom. Il. 9. 319.

Ep. 71. 1. Bellum Dacicum. Caninius' plan seems, from Pliny's observations, **actos bis triumphos**, &c., to have included *both* of Trajan's expeditions, the first A.D. 101–2, and the second A.D. 104–6. The first

campaign was undertaken to avenge the defeat of Fuscus (Juv. 4. 111), and the humiliation of Domitian, who is said to have consented to the payment of a tribute to Decibalus the Dacian king. In the first campaign Trajan penetrated to the heart of Dacia, established a garrison there, and obtained the complete submission of Decibalus. On his return he celebrated a triumph, and received the name of Dacicus.

It was not long before the Dacians, by violating the treaty, provoked a second invasion, which ended in the defeat and death of Decibalus, and the settlement of Dacia as a Roman province. For a full account of the Dacian war, see Merivale, Hist. Emp. c. 63.

4. **Inmissa terris nova flumina.** Decibalus temporarily diverted a river from its course, that he might conceal his treasure in its bed. Trajan repeated the operation to recover the treasure, and this may possibly be the exploit to which Pliny alludes.

Novos pontes; the bridges of boats thrown over the Danube in the first campaign, and the massive permanent bridge constructed in preparation for the second campaign.

5. **Montium abrupta.** These were the great difficulties of a campaign in that region.

Pulsum regia, namely from Zermizegethusa, captured in the first campaign.

6. **Pulsum etiam vita.** Decibalus fell by his own hand at the capture of his hill fort. This completes a noticeable parallel between the Dacian campaign and the late Abyssinian expedition, both being triumphs of engineering skill and of discipline rather than of valour, though the resistance of the Dacian was of course more formidable than that of Theodore. The story of the captive Longinus affords another point of similarity.

12. **Barbara et fera nomina**, such as the names of the king and his capital.

13. **Resultent** = 'abhorreant.' 'Galea resultant' Virg. Aen. 10. 330 means 'they rebound from the helmet.' Here 'resultare Graecis versibus' expresses the stubborn unfitness of Dacian names for Greek metres, with which, as it were, they rebound from them. The **labor** lies in obviating this difficulty, 'ut *non* resultent.'

17. **Non delicata sed necessaria**, 'demanded not by caprice but by necessity.'

18. **Ipso**, sc. 'Trajano.'

Ep. 72. 1. **Clitumnum**; the Clitumnus falls into the Tinia, a tributary of the Tiber. The excellence of the cattle fed on its banks made them in request at great festivals. Virgil mentions them among the glories of Italy: 'Hinc albi Clitumne greges' Georg. 2. 146. The beauty and celebrity of the spot attracted Caligula (Suet. Cal. 43) and Honorius (Claud. Cons. Hon. Sext. 506) to visit it.

5. **Eluctatusque quem facit gurgitem.** Cp. 'Nilus eluctatus ob-

stantia' Sen. Quaest. Nat. 4. 2. Verbs compounded with 'ex' which signify motion, generally take the accusative, rarely the ablative, unless the preposition is repeated before the substantive.

7. **Stipes,** 'small coins.' Seneca, in the passage quoted above, speaks of 'stipes' thrown into the stream by the priests.

8. **Devexitate.** Substantives ending in 'tas' are properly formed from adjectives only, Madvig, § 184. 1. But 'devexus' being adjectival in sense enjoys the privileges of an adjective. So also we have from 'falsus,' 'falsitas,' which has better authority than 'devexitas.' It was by the multiplication of these convenient derivatives that the vocabulary was increased, while the language was enervated.

9. **Fons adhuc et iam amplissimum flumen;** a vivid way of describing the quick transition from a mere spring to a river, which transition was the real marvel of the place; cp. 'Subita et ex abdito vasti amnis eruptio aras habet' Sen. Ep. 41. 'Est,' followed by a comma, suggests itself as an easy emendation for 'et,' and would simplify the sentence.

12. **Illa qua properat ipse,** 'down stream.'

13. **Remis non adiuvetur.** The current is so swift that oars are not required, and indeed cannot be used with advantage. Both 'adiuvetur' and **superetur** have the same nominative, namely Clitumnus, the river itself, which is now in the writer's thoughts though not expressed. Hence **validus** and **adversus** come to be masc., and not neut., in concord with 'flumen.'

15. **Ut flexerint cursum,** viz. either up stream or down stream.

18. **Adnumerat,** 'counts among its *own* charms,' though of course they properly belonged to the dry land.

22. **Sortes.** Lots were also in use at Praeneste and Caere. At the former place they consisted of sticks of oak with characters graven on them, Cic. de Div. 2. 41.

26. **Quod ponte transmittitur,** 'which is crossed (by the visitor) by means of a bridge.' 'Transmittere flumen' means to cross a river, for although 'mittere' has dropped its original meaning and becomes intransitive, ='mitti,' yet the addition of 'trans' enables it to govern an accusative. See Madvig, § 224. Since then 'transmittit flumen' may mean 'he crosses a river,' 'transmittitur flumen' may mean 'a river is crossed (by him).' Finally, the ablative 'ponte' is thrown in to describe the means of crossing; cp. 'In transgressu Euphratis quem ponte transmittebat' Tac. Ann. 15. 7. Or it may be translated simply, 'which is spanned by a bridge.' This would be a corruption of the proper use of 'transmitto,' paralleled by the ambiguous English idiom 'to be crossed by a bridge.'

27. **Infra etiam natare concessum.** The sanitary object of keeping clean springs meant for use was attained under the religious pretext of their sanctity. This was thoroughly in the spirit of the Roman cult as interpreted by Mommsen (vol. i. p. 184). Cp. the offence given by Nero's violation of the much-prized 'Aqua Marcia' Tac. Ann. 14. 22.

28. **Hispellates**; Hispellum was a town about twelve miles from the source of the river.

Ep. 73. 1. **Meorum**, sc. 'libertorum,' slaves whom he had manumitted on account of their appearing unlikely to recover.

3. **Facilitas manumittendi.** Manumission by census needed no more than the registration of a slave's name in the list of citizens, with his master's consent.

5. **Servis quoque.** The disposition of their property made by those manumitted before their death would of course hold good; but Pliny allowed as valid even the **quasi testamenta** of those who died slaves. The property of slaves was called 'peculium,' and though legally it belonged to their masters as much as their persons did, yet usage recognised it as their own. Pliny went beyond usage in allowing them to dispose of it after death. See Dict. Ant. art. 'Servus.'

Ep. 74. 2. **Praesumptione.** See on 'praesumo' Ep. 22. 3.

Certusque posteritatis, 'and assured of posthumous fame.' See on Ep. 16. 5.

3. **Cum**, 'in the enjoyment of.'

5. **Omnes homines**; a reminiscence of the opening of Sallust's Catiline.

9. **Ad vilitatem sui**; 'to holding life cheap,' to being weary of it. Cp. 'En sibi vilis adest invisa luce iuventus' Lucan 4. 276, speaking of the desperate recklessness of soldiers shut up without water. With regard to the substance of the letter it must be remembered that Pliny shared his uncle's cynical unbelief in a future life, expressed by him Hist. Nat. 7. 56, 'puerilium ista deliramentorum avidaeque nunquam desinere mortalitatis commenta sunt.' Immortality had no meaning to our author beyond that of posthumous fame, and to the hope of this he clung, as we see by his earnest request to Tacitus, Ep. 69.

Ep. 75. 4. **Nihil novum.** It is probable that this letter was suggested by Cic. Fam. 7. 1. Cp. 'Quae tamen si videnda sunt, saepe vidisti, neque nos qui spectavimus *quidquam novi* vidimus' Cic. l. c.

5. **Tot milia virorum**; cp.

'Totam hodie Romam Circus capit,'

and foll. Juv. 11. 195.

9. **Favent panno**, 'their interest is in the colours.' Four chariots generally contended in each race, the drivers being distinguished by four colours, white, green, red, and blue.

10. **Si in ipso cursu**; he means that if by some miracle the drivers were to exchange tunics in the middle of the race, the spectators' interest would go with the colour, and they would transfer their applause from the one chariot to the other.

Ep. 76. 1. **Inveni patrocinium**; I have found authority to defend me from the charge of folly and extravagance. Our proverb, 'Fools build houses for wise men to live in,' was represented in Latin by 'aliena insania

frui,' and this, says Pliny the elder, is the best thing to do, if you want a country house, Plin. N. H. 18. 5.

10. **Latius utitur,** sc. 'lacu,' 'enjoys a *wider* view of the lake,' which compensates for its not being quite so near the water.

13. **Spatiosissimo xysto**; a descriptive ablative governed by 'gestatio' repeated from the preceding clause.

18. **Idem facere,** 'that you are doing the same,' viz. building.

Ep. 77. Quadrato suo, a young man of ability and promise, whom Pliny, according to his custom, encouraged and advised on his entry on public life, Bk. 6. 11. The generous interest which Pliny took in his numerous young friends of this class is one of the most amiable traits in his character.

1. **De Helvidi ultione.** Helvidius the younger, son of Helvidius Priscus, is alluded to.

8. **Senator senatori.** Certus was so eager to show his devotion to Domitian (cp. 'cruentae adulationis') that he took on himself to arrest Helvidius, instead of waiting for the proper officers. Cp. 'Nostrae (sc. senatoriae) duxere Helvidium in carcerem manus' Tac. Agr. 45.

12. **Cum Arria et Fannia.** See on Ep. 28. 10.

16. **Dumtaxat** = γε.

20. **Defremuisset.** 'De' in composition sometimes introduces the sense of 'leaving off:' cp. 'despero.'

22. **Amissa nuper uxore,** his first wife. See on Ep. 86. 10.

28. **Societate**; for the abl. see on Ep. 18. 3.

30. **Ad Corellium rettuli.** Cp. 'Nihil nisi ex consilio meo facit' Ep. 40. 30.

41. **Extra ordinem,** 'unconstitutionally.' The proper course would have been to present a distinct accusation in legal form ('referre'), and this it appears had to be authorized by the emperor. Cp. 'Relationem quidem de eo Caesar ad senatum non remisit' line 112. Pliny's object in his motion was to obtain a 'relatio.'

42. **Qui supersumus,** 'who survive' the cruelty of Domitian.

47. **Sententiae loco.** The consul reminds him that he will be allowed to speak before the votes are taken, to which Pliny angrily replies that that will be no extraordinary favour. On 'sententiae loco' see on Ep. 60. 8.

50. **Curato,** 'earnest,' lit. 'taken pains with.' Cp. 'curatissimis precibus' Tac. Ann. 1. 13.

53. **Malis,** the adjective.

60. **Omnia praecepi,** &c. Virg. Aen. 6. 105. On the sense of 'praecepi' see on Ep. 18. 18.

63. **Censendi,** for giving opinions ('sententiae') before voting. Cp. l. 47. The other matters ('alia' l. 49) had been despatched.

64. **Fabricius Veiento.** See on Ep. 42. 14.

76. **Helvidi filiae,** one of the two Helvidiae, whose subsequent death in childbed is deplored by Pliny, Bk. 4. 21. Their mother Anteia had married

again, and a guardian was therefore required for her children by Helvidius the younger, namely a boy and two girls.

93. **Proventum,** 'success.' Cp. 'Studia hilaritate proveniunt' Bk. 8. 19, where 'provenire' means 'to advance' and so 'to prosper.'

99. **Discessione,** 'the division,' which took place by the senators crossing the floor to join either one or another party.

103. **Ὦ γέρον,** words of Diomede to Nestor, from Hom. Il. 8. 102.

113. **Collega Certi consulatum, successorem Certus accepit.** Vettius Proculus, colleague of Certus in the prefecture of the treasury, was now named for the consulship instead of Certus. Certus thus lost the consulship promised him by Domitian (**a pessimo**), and was also superseded (**successorem accepit**) in his office at the treasury. 'Successorem dare alicui' to supersede a man, is not an infrequent phrase.

122. **Interest tamen exempli.** Cp. 'Exempli nonnihil refert' Bk. 8. 22.

124. **Inputabis,** 'you will blame yourself for,' lit. charge to your own account. Though frequent in this sense in later writers, 'imputo' was not thus used in the Augustan age. See Mayor's note on Juv. 5. 14.

Ep. 78. 3. Tam querulis. Grumbling was even in those days a farmer's privilege. Cp. 'Querellae rusticorum qui auribus meis post longum tempus suo iure abutuntur' Bk. 7. 30.

6. **Rationes,** the accounts of the estate, to which any but a literary landlord would have given his first attention.

9. **Pro gestatione,** 'by way of exercise,' not really to examine the state of the land. 'Gestatio' is also the name of the place where exercise was taken; cp. 'Hortum et gestationem videt' Ep. 21. 61.

Ep. 79. Two reasons give interest to this letter, firstly, the amiable light in which it exhibits the writer, and secondly its singular parallelism with the Epistle to Philemon. Here we have the language of humane interest in the delinquent, but St. Paul's is the language of brotherly affection.

12. **Tam lenis,** 'kindly as you are by nature.'

Ep. 80. 8. Italicus es an provincialis. This distinction was not one of birth, but of residence.

11. **Quasi litterarum . . . . redduntur,** 'as though they belonged not to men but to literary pursuits, are assigned to the studies' (which we severally follow). The next clause, **quod uterque,** &c. is also dependent on **iucundum,** and runs parallel with the clause preceding it. For the idea cp. 'Ut Cicero iam non hominis sed eloquentiae nomen habeatur' Quint. Inst. Or. 10. 1.

Ep. 81. This story, with others to the same purpose, is recorded by Pliny the elder, N. H. 9. 8.

6. **Omnis aetas,** i. e. 'homines omni aetate.'

21. **Si quid est mari simile.** This would include both the lagoon and its estuary.

36. **Incredibile,** because they were supposed to die at once on leaving

the water. So Thetis bids the dolphins (which are to carry her and Achilles to Scyros) to draw up 'pleno in litore,' where the water covers the shore, 'ne nudae noceant contagia terrae' Stat. Ach. 1. 227.

41. **Superfudisse unguentum.** It was customary to consecrate and anoint favourite animals, such as elephants, horses, birds, &c. See Casaubon on Suet. Jul. 81.

48. **Ad quod coibatur,** 'the object of the concourse.'

Ep. 82. 4. **Quae avocant,** 'which distract one.' Cp. 'Magis mihi vox avocare videtur quam crepitus' Sen. Ep. 56.

6. **Quotiens non vident alia,** 'whenever there is not something else for them to look at.'

7. **Ad verbum scribenti,** 'writing out in full.' He means that he composes mentally with as much care and minuteness as if he were writing and correcting on paper. So Quintilian, speaking of a habit of Cicero's which he is recommending and explaining, says 'Illud quoque *ad verbum* ponere optimum fuerit,' i. e. in all its details; Quint. Inst. Or. 11. 2.

9. **Notarium.** See on Ep. 25. 54.

15. **Intentio,** something stronger than 'attention,' more like 'concentration.' It was stimulated, not arrested, by the change and exercise.

20. **Comoedus.** See on Ep. 24. 36.

Cum meis, sc. 'libertis.' Cp. 'Gymnasium meorum' Ep. 21. 32.

24. **Brevius quia velocius.** Sufficient exercise could be got in less time, on horseback.

28. **Venor,** after the fashion described in Ep. 4.

30. **Colonis.** For their position see on Ep. 33. 23. Villenage in the middle ages was the offspring of the system of 'coloni.' It is not difficult to imagine the topics of their **agrestes querellae.**

Ep. 83. 1. **Translaticia.** The fundamental application of this word is to things not original, but copied or borrowed, as were legal formulae or the praetor's annual edict. For this sense cp. 'Hoc vetus edictum translaticiumque esse' Cic. Verr. 2. 1, 44; and Cic. Div. 8. 5, where 'haec translaticia' means 'the old story.' Hence it declines into the sense of formal, unmeaning, commonplace, as here. Cp. also 'non translaticia deformitate,' 'no common unsightliness,' Petron. 110.

4. **Nisi.** The use of 'nisi' for 'ni' or 'si non' in this passage is certainly awkward. The negative is thereby removed from **videro,** with which in sense it is closely united; and the clause **nisi te Kalendis,** &c. to which the whole sentence leads up, is introduced by a conjunction ('nisi') which is generally employed to insert an exception. 'Per "nisi" significatur *exceptio* quae ad aliquam sententiam *accedit*' Hand. Turs. sub. voc. 'Nisi,' where the distinction between 'nisi' and 'si non' is clearly laid down. 'Nisi' is nearly coextensive in its use with the English 'unless.'

The sense of the passage may be briefly given thus, (1) you are too kind to insist on this rubbish; (2) I am too dear a friend to be suspected of coldness if I don't ('nisi') come; (3) but above all I am very busy about my farms.

5. **Plures annos ordinatura,** 'which will settle matters for many years to come.' **Necessitas locandorum praediorum** is treated as equivalent to 'locatio praediorum,' and so 'ordinatura' is joined to it, though strictly speaking 'necessitas . . . ordinatura' is nonsense.

7. **Lustro,** the usual term of a Roman lease.

8. **Reliqua,** 'arrears.' Cp. 'Reliqua colonorum minuit' Ep. 33. 20.

10. **Ut qui iam putent.** They think they can't help being bankrupt. Frugality would be only for their creditor's benefit, i. e. their landlord's, and not for their own.

12. **Si non nummo, sed partibus locem,** 'if I let the land not for a fixed rent, but for proportions of the produce.' This was a return to the old system described by Cato as 'politio,' which was in fact the 'metairie' system now prevailing in Italy. See Daubeny's Roman Husbandry, Lect. 2.

13. **Operis exactores.** He would appoint some of his own farm bailiffs to see that he got his due proportion of the produce. This would be a duty exactly analogous to the work of taking tithes in kind before the 'commutation.'

18. **Delicata,** 'capricious,' 'fanciful,' opposed to obligatory. Cp. Ep. 71. 17.

Ep. 84. Mustio, an architect. Cp. inf. 'Qui soles locorum difficultates arte superare.'

2. **In melius.** See on Ep. 28. 2.

6. **In proximo.** See on Ep. 4. 4.

Suffugium aut imbris aut solis. The objective genitive following a verbal substantive has the same meaning as the transitive verb and the accusative; Madv. § 283, Obs. 3. This will apply to 'suffugium' and its genitive, since 'suffugit' is used transitively Lucr. 5. 150.

15. **Quod videatur istinc esse repetendum.** 'Repetendum' has usually been taken to mean the same as 'arcessendum,' and the passage construed thus, 'which seems desirable to be procured from the place where you are.' But this translation entirely omits the force of 're.' 'Repeto' occurs twenty-four times in Pliny's letters, and always in the sense of going *back* to, fetching *back*, or taking up *again*. The only way of giving 'repetendum' an adequate sense is to take the passage thus, 'nothing occurs to me that seems desirable to be taken up into consideration from the spot,' i. e. from the character of the buildings already existing. This interpretation seems to prepare the way more naturally for the clause beginning **nisi tamen.** On the other hand it may be said that 'istinc' must mean 'e loco in quo tu es.' But that 'istinc' for 'illinc' is no solecism appears from 'si quid novisti rectius istis Candidus imperti' Hor. Ep. 1. 6, 67. And cp. 'Nec tantum dicitur pronomen "iste" de eo loco quem alter obtinet quocum aliquis loquitur, sed quicumque intelligitur locus ab eo qui loquitur remotus' Hand. Turs. sub. voc. 'Iste.' Or again, we may suppose Mustius to have lived in the neighbourhood of the temple (though at this time he seems not to have

seen it), or at any rate to have lived nearer to it than the spot from which Pliny was writing.

Ep. 85. 2. Patri; Nerva, who had adopted Trajan as his son.

Festinaverunt. Nerva reigned barely a year and a half.

Ep. 86. 2. Iure trium liberorum; for an explanation of this see on Ep. 19. 21.

4. **Rescripto.** By this time the word 'rescriptum' had attained a technical sense, viz. an answer in writing given by the emperor to some magistrate or private person consulting him, which when given carried the force of law. At a later period (in the Institutes of Justinian) it was held that whatever the emperor determined by letter ('rescriptum'), or decided judicially ('decretum'), or declared by edict ('edictum'), was the law of the empire. These three classes of decisions were included under the general name 'constitutiones.' These 'constitutiones' were preserved in the imperial archives even from the time of Augustus, and copies of them more or less complete were also to be found at the seats of provincial government. A careful discrimination was observed between those constitutions which were of universal and those which were of special application. Cp. 'Aut proprium aut universale' Ep. 87. 4.

10. **Duobus matrimoniis meis.** It appears to be uncertain whether Pliny was married once or twice before his marriage with Calpurnia. We know from Ep. 77. 22 and 65 that the wife who immediately preceded Calpurnia died shortly after the accession of Nerva, and that her step-father's name was Vettius Proculus. Pompeia Celerina, whom Pliny speaks of as his 'socrus' (Bk. 1. 4), was probably the mother of this previous wife, and therefore had married Vettius Proculus as her second husband. See on Ep. 41.

We are then wholly without trace of a marriage on Pliny's part previous to that with the daughter of Pompeia Celerina. Mommsen (Onomasticon, Keil's second ed.), apparently on the strength of this letter only, thinks that two marriages must have been contracted in the reign of Domitian, in which case the 'socrus' mentioned in Ep. 12. 8 must be the mother of a wife married when Pliny was still 'adulescentulus,' who afterwards made way by death for the daughter of Pompeia Celerina.

But the passage before us does not clearly state that the two marriages were contracted in Domitian's time, but only that the fact of his wishing to have children even then is proved by the fact of his not having waited till now to be married, but having married once before, as well as once now, twice in all. We may perhaps suppose that Pliny, like an advocate, gave the sentence an equivocal turn to make his case look better than it was.

12. **Futurus essem,** sc. 'pater.'

Ep. 87. 2. θρεπτούς. These were children exposed by their parents, who had been rescued and brought up by other persons.

3. **Constitutionibus.** See on Ep. 86. 4.

4. **Quod ad Bithynos,** to be taken in close connection with **universale.**

Pliny could find no special enactment for Bithynia (**proprium**) nor any universal enactment for the empire which might be applied to the case of the Bithynians.

7. **Exemplo,** 'a precedent.

10. **Achaeos.** Unless we omit 'Achaeos' 'dein ad' must be inserted before the word, as in the Aldine edition.

Ep. 88. 2. **Sublati.** 'Tollo' has the special sense of taking up new-born children from the ground as a sign that they were to be reared.

7. **Intermissa,** Orelli's emendation for 'inter quas.' Keil's own is more ingenious, 'intra eas provincias de quibus rescripsit inter quas non est Bithynia.'

8. **Adsertionem.** 'Adsero' may be used indifferently with 'in libertatem' or 'in servitutem.' Suet. Vitell. 10; Tib. 2.

10. **Ipsam libertatem.** 'Ipsam' throws an emphasis on 'libertatem,' which may perhaps be rendered by translating the words 'natural liberty.' Their status was already that of freedom itself, and did not, in Trajan's opinion, require to be made so by any payment to their foster parents for the expenses of nurture.

Redimendam, 'requiring redemption.'

Ep. 89. 1. **Nicomedensi.** Nicomedia was the ancient capital of the kings of Bithynia. Two hundred years after Pliny's time it was chosen by Diocletian as the capital of his eastern share of the empire, and was then, according to Gibbon, inferior only to Rome, Antioch, and Alexandria in its extent and populousness.

2. **Cum detineretur.** The bakers to whom he had engaged himself as a journeyman having discovered that he was a runaway slave endeavoured to make him their own slave.

4. **Confugisse ad tuam statuam.** Statues of the emperors shared the right of asylum possessed by temples of the gods. This privilege of sanctuary was much abused, Tac. Ann. 3. 36. It seems to have been the only method of appeal which slaves had in case of ill usage; hence we find a 'constitutio' of Antoninus Pius to the effect that if a slave in a province fled to a temple or a statue to avoid ill treatment, the authorities could compel his master to sell him, and the slave was not to be regarded as a runaway.

6. **Susago.** Susagus was probably a Dacian general who took part in the invasion of Moesia by Decibalus in the first year of Domitian, A.D. 81. This was twenty-three years before the time of Pliny's writing this letter, which would leave room for the many years (**pluribus annis**) mentioned below.

Decibalo. Decibalus was probably not a personal name, but a title, like that of Pharaoh. See Merivale's Hist. Emp. c. 61.

10. **Mittendum ad te putavi.** He thought Trajan would be glad to gather from him information about the state of Dacia and Parthia, both of which he afterwards invaded and conquered.

Feci dum requiro. 'Dum' used of a contemporary action usually takes the present, although the action may be past, and the perfect be used in the leading proposition. Cp. 'Dum obsequor adolescentibus me senem esse oblitus sum' Cic. de Or. 2. 4.

11. **Quibus**; an antecedent for quibus in the gen. case and governed by imaginem must be understood—'an effigy of Pacorus and the ornaments with which,' &c.

14. **Signata est**, sc. **glebula**, the packet in which the nugget was enclosed.

Ep. 90. This and the following letter attracted the notice of Christian authors at an early period, and is alluded to by Tertullian, Eusebius and Jerome.

'Nowhere perhaps had Christianity advanced with greater rapidity than in the northern provinces of Asia Minor, where the inhabitants were of very mingled descent, neither purely Greek nor essentially Asiatic, with a considerable proportion of Jewish colonists chiefly of Babylonian or Syrian, not of Palestinian origin. It is here, in the province of Bithynia, that Polytheism first discovered the deadly enemy which was undermining her authority' Milman's Hist. Chr. 2. 6.

Although Paul did not visit Bithynia (Acts 16. 7), yet the province might easily have been evangelized from the neighbouring church of Galatia.

3. **Cognitionibus.** It is manifest, both from this expression and from the executions ordered by Pliny and sanctioned by the emperor, that Christianity was already an offence amenable to capital punishment; and this either under some existing statute, or under the law of the empire, which invested both the emperor and the provincial governor with the arbitrary power of life and death. See Milman, l. c.

8. **Nomen ipsum.** It is evident from Trajan's answer to this enquiry (Ep. 91) that the mere profession and not the practice of Christianity, was the object of punishment. This is a frequent matter of complaint with the Christian apologists. Cp. 'And ye shall be hated of all men for my *name's* sake' Matt. 10. 22.

12. **Iterum ac tertio.** In this repeated questioning may be seen the rudiments of the system of torture afterwards employed to elicit a denial of the faith. Roman law did not accept a *single* confession of a prisoner as proof of guilt, unless the confession was supported by external proof, but required the confession to be repeated. Thus a provision of mercy became a pretext for cruelty.

13. **Duci**, sc. 'ad supplicium,' a common euphemism.

14. **Inflexibilem obstinationem.** Constancy naturally appears obstinacy to spectators who do not see its relation to the object or person external to itself whereon it depends. Pliny most probably, like his uncle (Pliny N. H. 7. 56), could not conceive a future existence possible, and was thus incapacitated for distinguishing between obstinacy and the constancy of Christian hope. So also Marcus Aurelius (11. 3) says the Christians

were ready to die of mere obstinacy, a passage referred to and explained in Smith's Dict. Bible, vol. 2, p. 857 note, art. 'Philosophy.'

Pliny could only see in the conduct of the Christians the violation of the most evident duty, that of passive obedience on the part of subjects towards a beneficent government.

16. **In urbem remittendos**: cp. Acts 25. 12.

17. **Ipso tractatu . . . . crimine**, 'when, as usually happens, the charge became more common, simply from the fact of the matter being dealt with.' 'Crimen' is the charge of being a Christian, which now presented itself as an easy means of gratifying private enmity, even when there was no evidence to bring in support of it.

22. **Ture ac vino supplicarent.** Christians who consented to do this were known in the Church as 'thurificati.' Cp. Cyprian, Ep. 52.

Male dicerent Christo. It was a similar command which about fifty years later drew from Polycarp his dying confession, 'I have now served him eighty-six years, and he has done me no wrong; how can I blaspheme my King and Saviour?'

23. **Quorum nihil cogi.** Verbs which, like 'cogo,' take a double accusative in the active voice may retain one of those accusatives in the passive. Thus, since

'Quid non mortalia pectora cogis
Auri sacra fames? Virg. Aen. 3. 56,

is good syntax, then 'si cogi aliquid consules possunt' Liv. 4. 26, will also stand as good.

30. **Stato die**, namely the first day of the week. This account of the Christian worship corresponds with that given by Justin Martyr, not quite thirty years later, who mentions assemblies for the purpose of worship as being held *τῇ τοῦ ἡλίου λεγομένῃ ἡμέρᾳ* Apol. 1. 87.

31. **Ante lucem**, before the labours of the day began, which in the case of slave Christians would occupy Sunday as much as any other day. Thus this early hour became the established time for worship, and consequently for the administration of the Holy Communion. The same hour is still regarded as proper for that purpose, an example of how the necessities of an age establish a custom which long survives that age and its necessities.

Carmen, not necessarily either lengthy or metrical. All that 'carmen' implies is 'a set form of words.'

Quasi deo; these words are evidently thrown in by Pliny, and must not be regarded as evidence of the belief of the Church at that time in the Divinity of Christ.

32. **Sacramento.** Waterland, in tracing the history of the various names of the Lord's Supper, refers to this as the earliest application to it of the name 'sacrament.' 'As Pliny is here reporting what the Christians had told him, it is reasonable to judge that they made use of the word "sacrament" to him, which they understood in the Christian sense, however Pliny or Trajan might take it' Waterland on the Eucharist, c. 1.

He says further in support of this interpretation of 'sacramentum' in this place, 'The account given in this passage refers to what the whole assembly were wont to do at the same; they could not all come to receive Baptism, though they might come to receive the Eucharist' Ib. Tertullian, contrasting the commands of the Lord with superadded tradition, employs the word 'sacrament' to denote the Lord's Supper, and also confirms Pliny's account of its being received before daybreak. 'Eucharistiae sacramentum, et in tempore victus, et omnibus mandatum a Domino; etiam *antelucanis* coetibus nec de aliorum manu quam praesidentium sumimus' Tert. de Cor. c. 3, p. 102, ed. Rig.

35. **Rursusque coeundi**; i. e. for the love feast in the *evening*, now distinct from the Eucharist, which latter was no longer taken 'in tempore victus' at meal-time, Tert. l. c. 'Coeundi' is inserted from the Aldine edition.

36. **Promiscuum**, 'ordinary,' cp. 'promiscua et vilia,' common and cheap articles,' Tac. Germ. 5. This account of the food at the Agapae was given by the Christians in refutation of the common charge that they ate human flesh; a charge which arose from the language which they employed respecting the Body and Blood of Christ.

38. **Hetaerias.** Clubs or guilds, for whatever purpose, were looked on as dangerous; cp. Trai. 34 and 93. This being so, the doctrine of the unity of the Church of Christ, and the practice of 'love of the brethren' would, so far as they were understood, appear to the government more formidable than the other features of Christianity.

39. **Ministrae**, apparently a translation of διάκονοι, deaconesses, a recognised order in the early Church, Rom. 16. 1.

46. **Civitates.** Here we see 'civitas' on its way to the exclusive sense of 'city,' which it has reached in modern languages. But in Cicero we find a distinction clearly laid down between 'civitates,' commonwealths of 'cives,' and 'urbes' the places of their habitation. Pro Sest. 42. In Gellius we find note taken of the confusion of the two words, and the use of 'civitas' 'pro oppido *et* pro hominum multitudine' Gell. 18. 7.

50. **Pastum.** It does not appear how the food of victims differed from that of other cattle. They may perhaps have been grazed in the precincts of the temple at the expense of the intending sacrificer.

Ep. 91. 2. Neque enim in universum. Trajan refuses to write such a 'rescript' as might be taken for a law of the empire (see on Ep. 86. 4), and confines himself to an approval of Pliny's conduct. Trajan seems to have thought that the new sect would require different treatment according to the political condition of the places in which it appeared; for his point of view was political, and his object rather the peace than the orthodoxy of the empire.

4. **Conquirendi non sunt.** 'O sententiam necessitate confusam! Negat inquirendos, ut innocentes; et mandat puniendos ut nocentes' Tertull. Ap. 2.

8. **Sine auctore.** 'Cum alicui crimen obiicitur praecedere debet in crimen subscriptio' (i. e. the signature of the accuser). Ulpian 48. 2, 7.

10. **Nec nostri saeculi.** Cp. 'Digna saeculo tuo' Ep. 85. 5, and 'Convenientissimum tranquillitati saeculi' Trai. 10.

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